Valley Voice

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Zigler Pegged as New Lindsay Interim City Chief

Dave Adalian

The Lindsay City Council may have held its shortest meeting ever when it met to discuss appointing an interim city manager on July 6.

After a brief pause to take public comments at the afternoon special meeting held at the Community Development Conference Room -- there were none -- the council adjourned for an executive session to discuss hiring an interim city manager. Councilman Steven Mecum was absent.

Bill Zigler

When they returned, Mayor Ramona Villarreal-Padilla made a brief statement before adjourning the gathering.

"We are back in session," she said, "with nothing to report."

During the closed-door meeting, the four council members on hand reportedly agreed in a 4-0 vote to offer the job to Bill Zigler, the city's economic development, planning and zoning director. They were scheduled to vote publicly on filling the position at their regular meeting on July 14.

Veteran to the Helm

Zigler, a veteran of 21 years in the US Navy who joined the staff at Lindsay City Hall 15 years ago, began his career with the city as an intern. He will temporarily fill the position left vacant by the departure, under a dark cloud, of former City Manager Rick Wilkinson. Wilkinson had accused three members of the council, Villarreal-Padilla, Sanchez and Mecum, of conspiring with former Lindsay police officer Bryan Clower to have him removed from his job without receiving a severance package.

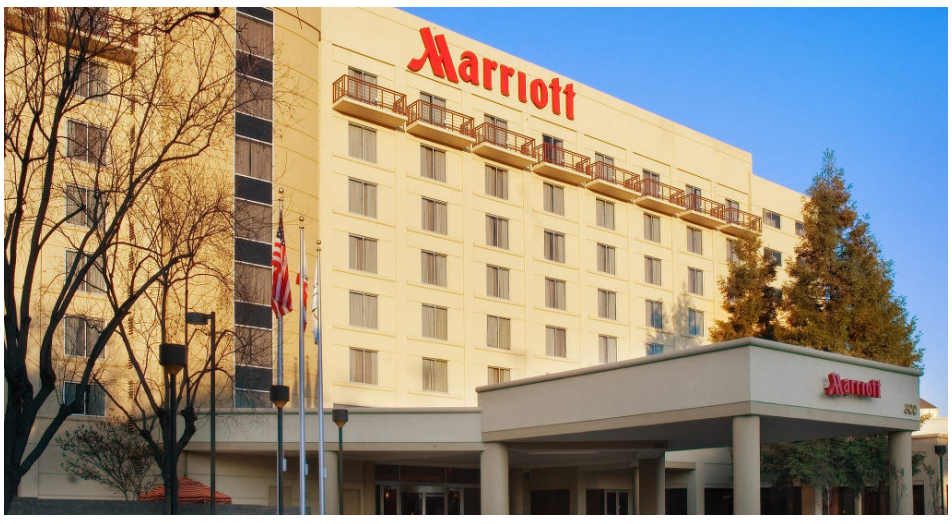
Wilkinson and the city have since settled their differences, with Wilkinson departing his job and receiving a severance package worth some $240,000. Wilkinson was named Lindsay's Man of the Year in 2013.

In June, City Clerk Carmen Wilson was appointed as acting city manager. Zigler will have formally replaced her July 14, if the council voted to approve the change in job title.

Grand Jury Complaint

Meanwhile, citizens led by Lindsay businessman Brian Watson have taken their complaints about council actions to the Tulare County Grand Jury. At the council's June 23 meeting, Watson said he believed the council had violated the Brown Open Meeting Act, the Lindsay City Charter and had engaged in influence peddling known as a quid pro quo violation, which is a federal crime.

The Lindsay City Council meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Lindsay City Hall, 251 E. Honolulu Ave.



Visalia, County, Growing with Demand of Tourism and Conventions

Nancy Vigran

With a refreshing of the Visalia Convention Center and upcoming remodeling of two major local hotels, coupled with the potential building of a new hotels in town, the Visalia Convention and Visitor's Bureau could not be happier.

A non-profit agency, "we are tasked with bringing tourism and conventions to the city," said Suzanne Blanco, tourism and marketing manager.

"If we have more hotel rooms, we can sell more hotel rooms," she said. "And, new and fresh is always good for us."

New and fresh will be the look of the Visalia Marriott, adjoining the convention center, which saw new ownership step in, in March and hopes to start remodeling before the end of the year, said Carrie Grover, hotel general manager.

The Marriott has submitted plans to the corporate office for approval, she said.

"The new look and feel for Marriott is earth tones," she said.

Which is the same color-theme the convention center remodeling has taken for a connected look from one to the other, said Wally Roeben, convention center manager.

The long-standing Holiday Inn just off Highway 99 on Airport Drive, is being renamed as a Wyndham Hotel, although ownership remains under the Shaw Hotel Group. The 10-year agreement with Holiday Inn was up this year, and the Shaw Hotel Group decided it was time for a change, signing a 15-year-agreement with Wyndham Hotels and Resorts.

With the change comes renovations to that facility, to fit in with the

TOURISM continued on **4 »**

Gingi Freeman speaks to the Visalia City Council.

Food Freedom Initiative Filed with City of Visalia

Catherine Doe

Advocates for the Urban Farmers for Food Freedom (UFFF) filed their paperwork with the City of Visalia clerk's office on July 6. Called the Family Food Freedom Act, the initiative will put to a vote if Visalians want to allow small farm animals in residential areas. The measure would allow up to 6 chickens and 4 miniature goats per family. The number of food-producing animals would not count against the number of dogs and cats already allowed under the city's ordinance.

That same evening at the Visalia City Council meeting, the UFFF was at the convention center handing out "I'm Pro Goat" tee shirts and speaking during public comment. Gingi Freeman, who started the movement to legalize miniature goats, informed the council that the initiative has been submitted and that she was confident that the UFFF would obtain the signatures needed to get the measure on the ballot.

"I regret that it has come to this, but the time has come to take the decision-making power out of uncaring hands, and put it where it belongs – with the People, the voters of Visalia. Because the fact of the matter is, Visalia is pro-goat and we vote," she said.

Freeman encouraged the city council to negotiate with the UFFF to save the city money.

"This ballot initiative will happen,

INITIATIVE continued on **4 »**

Tulare County Planning Commission Approves Papich Asphalt Plant in Goshen

Catherine Doe

A public hearing was held during the July 7 Tulare County Supervisors meeting concerning the Papich Construction Asphalt Batch Plant Project. The asphalt plant has been operating out of a Public Works Staging Area in Goshen at Betty Dr. and Highway 99 on a temporary permit. The temporary permit was approved in 2013 so the asphalt plant could supply materials for the construction of the Betty Dr. interchange. On May 27 of this year, the Tulare County Planning Commission approved Papich's request to make the asphalt plant permanent.

Houston Wells, owner of Glen Wells Construction, appealed the planning commission's decision. Wells, and Mitchell Brown, of Mitchell Brown

ASPHALT continued on **9 »**

Hanford Costco Repayment Plan Hits Snag

Dave Adalian

After it failed to reach agreement at its July 7 meeting, a divided Hanford City Council will have to take a second look at how the city will honor its agreement with developers to split future sales tax income from the upcoming Costco.

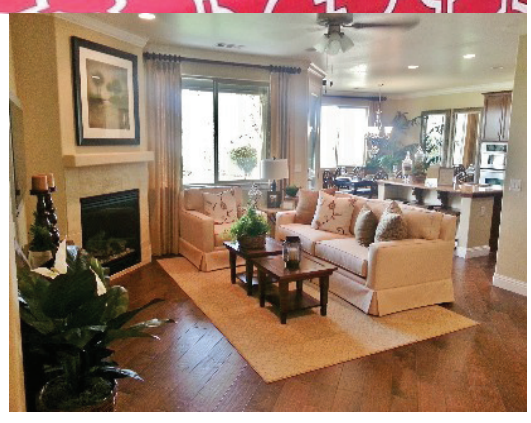
The city initially agreed to reduce developer and impact fees to the tune of $2 million to bring Costco to town -- a sum which city leaders knew would eventually have to be paid out of the city's coffers. The council then OK'd a second resolution in July of 2014 agreeing to pay the developers a second $2 million for infrastructure improvements they will make at the East Lacey Boulevard location. But, the present council couldn't decide at its latest meeting how to come up with the cash.

Rebuilding From the Recession

The reduced developer fees were offered in the wake of the mid-2000's recession, a carrot dangled to attract new businesses to the city. The move worked, but now the discounted fees must be covered to avoid legal problems, Deputy Public Works Director John Doyle told the council.

"It was clear the impact fees had to be paid by someone," he said. "If you reduce the impact fees and they're not made up by someone somehow, then

COSTCO continued on **10 »**



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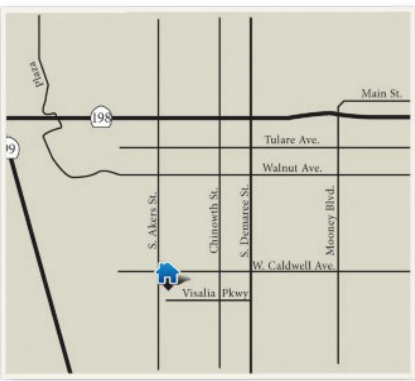

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FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

It's Not Going to Fly

After intending to for nearly 30 years now, I have at long last read Winston Churchill's The River War. Why? Because--with the rise of ISIS--it is, finally, relevant.

First published in two volumes in 1899, The River War is Churchill's chiefly firsthand account of the re-conquest of the Sudan from the Dervish Empire and its ruler, the Khalifa Abdullah, who inherited the mantle of command from one Mohammed Ahmed, otherwise known--however self-proclaimed--as the Mahdi.

It was the Mahdi --the awaited "Guided One"--who in the summer of 1881 asserted that he was of the Ashraf, or Descendants of the Prophet (pbuh). Thus began a rebellion against Egyptian--and by extension, Ottoman--rule of the Sudan, famously culminating in a yearlong siege of Khartoum and the murder of the former Governor-General, Sir Charles Gordon, who, at the behest of the British and Egyptian governments, had been sent there to secure the evacuation of loyal citizens.

That Gordon--after evacuating some 2,500 British civilians--remained under arms in Khartoum is another story. His own story ended with multiple stab wounds and a posthumous beheading by Mahdist forces in January of 1885. The Mahdi himself succumbed to typhus fever six months later.

But we're concerned here with his successor, the Khalifa, who reigned for 13 years and in whose time the boundaries of the Dervish Empire were expanded from the Egyptian border in the north to very near Lake Albert Nyanza in the south, and from Darfur in the west to the Red Sea.

So--an expansionist rogue state with, at its head, a Khalifa. Ring any bells?

An alarm, I'm hoping--as it did, eventually, for the British, who sat on their hands in consternation, plainly chagrinned until 1895. That's when a high-ranking, if captive, Dervish escaped to Aswan and swayed British public opinion toward re-conquest with his publication later that year of Fire and Sword in the Soudan. This volume, according to Churchill, "increased the horror and anger of thoughtful people in England at the cruelties of the Khalifa."

Oh--and on March 1, 1896, the Italians were crushed by the Abyssinians at the Battle of Adowa. This greatly reduced European prestige in North Africa, and to many it seemed possible that Abyssinian success against the Italians would encourage Dervish aggression. Throw in some intrigue about the Triple Alliance's--Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy--now shouldering a weak sister and...Presto! It's time for the British re-conquest of the Sudan.

It's time for the civilized world's conquest of ISIS. The same can be said of Boko Haram; Al Qaeda, quite possibly, might be in too franchised a position to be dealt with singly. But all of this, anyhow, will likely require many years--as it did so long ago now and far away with the Mahdists. Here's what happened then.

The British, in partnership with Egypt, finally marched against the Dervish army in 1896, fielding 8,200 men alongside their ally's 17,600. The enemy numbered something approximating 52,000—and, more often than not, the Expeditionary Force was outnumbered by worse than 2-1. But the Khalifa failed in any meaningful comprehension of the advantages of the railway and the Maxim gun. Thus, while always enjoying internal orders of march and overwhelming numbers, the Khalifa did not appreciate the rapidity with which men and materiel--or bullets through machine gun barrels--could be moved against him. The Expeditionary Force laid a desert railway from Wady Halfa to Berber, and from there was able to advance upon the Mahdist capital of Omdurman, adjacent to Khartoum.

The Battle of Omdurman took place on September 2--of 1898. That's a two-year slog of combat, true (although much of that time was spent waiting for the Nile to flood so gunboats could navigate cataracts) but the result was decisive, leaving--according to Churchill--something like 9,700 Dervish dead while the Expeditionary Force lost less than 500 men. They also took 5,000 prisoners. The Khalifa was sent headlong into flight, and they got him for good, after something like the hunt for Saddam Hussein, six months later.

And then the British and the Egyptians jointly administered the Sudan.

Unsavory as the prospect is, we may eventually have to range troops against the likes of ISIS. History shows that a modest coalition, if superior technologically, will be victorious against entrenched extremists. I don't see that this equation has changed much over time--except for the temptation now to substitute air power for armies.

It's not going to fly.

— Joseph Oldenbourg

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Publisher/Editor: Joseph Oldenbourg
joseph@ourvalleyvoice.com

Staff:
Catherine Doe, writer (catherine@ourvalleyvoice.com)
Tony Maldonado, webmaster (tony@ourvalleyvoice.com)
Nancy Vigran, advertising (nancy@ourvalleyvoice.com)
Stefan Barros, sports (stefan@ourvalleyvoice.com)
Dave Adalian, writer (dave@ourvalleyvoice.com)

Contact us & share your opinion: www.ourvalleyvoice.com
3350 S Fairway St • Visalia, CA 93277

Political Fix

Catherine Doe

THE FAMILY FOOD FREEDOM ACT – THE REST OF THE STORY

Let's just say the painful truth out loud about the Food Freedom Act. A wise man told me during the Tulare County Supervisors' meeting that Visalia could have avoided this whole initiative process if they had just given Gingi Freeman a medical exemption. When code enforcement discovered that she had miniature goats in her yard to provide milk for her newborn and toddler because she can't breast feed, they could have made a temporary exemption. The city manager could have hidden the item in the consent calendar and that would have been the last we would have heard about goats.

Maybe.

At the June 1 city council meeting the vote, was 3 -2 against changing Visalia's animal ordinance to allow chickens inside city limits. Those Visalia residents wanting a public hearing on miniature goats never did get the chance, because the group couldn't get their item on the agenda without paying an outrageous fee. Of course, if the council voted against chickens, they obviously would not have voted for little goats. They saved the city some time and money.

So is anyone going to lose their council seat because of the chicken and goat issue? The answer is probably not. The only council member who is up for reelection in 2016, and who voted against chickens, is Councilmember Bob Link. Mr. Link has not made it official whether he is running again or not. The talk is that since he retired from the clothing business he won't run again. But that may be just the impetus to make him file papers.

Mr. Link has such a faithful following its hard to imagine him losing his seat over a chicken. Ms. Freeman is also in Mr. Link's district and if she has any ambitions of running for city council she also has a large following. They both live in District 2 which is southeastish Visalia. It's a hard call to say whether that area of town would enjoy small farm animals in their neighbor's yard.

Another little discussed aspect of the initiative is that, right now, the paperwork is sitting on the desk of the city attorney. While the initiative awaits action, Visalia still wields some control over the content of the initiative. Once it goes to the voters the city has lost all control. The Urban Farmers for Food Freedom (UFFF) wrote the initiative with wiggle room in case the city wanted to negotiate. The city would be better off negotiating now because the initiative will ultimately pass.

Of course that depends with whom you speak.

Mayor Steve Nelsen and Mr. Link may be correct in their assessment that the silent majority of Visalians do not want chickens and goats in residential areas. But more often than not the silent majority stews at home and doesn't vote. The silent majority may have been willing to give their opinion as Mr. Nelsen wandered the neighborhood or sent out emails taking his a straw poll, but will those same people show up to cast a ballot?

I'll tell you who will show up. The people who make up the UFFF are similar, if not the same, as the group of people who ushered in an unknown to the California State Assembly, Devon Mathis. Assemblyman Mathis ended up not only being the shocker of the election but winning by 13 points. The UFFF lean toward the Libertarian/Tea Party and they vote. If the silent majority holds true to their name, the Food Freedom Act is going to win just as easily as Assemblyman Mathis, but without the shock factor.

The UFFF fighting call is "Visalia is pro-goat and we vote." At the June 1 city council meeting, Mayor Nelsen said he took offense at the comment that the council needs to listen to the people "or we will remember." I don't know exactly what he took offense to, but if I had a nickel for every time Mayor Nelsen said he "takes offense" I'd be able to buy myself a vente chocolate chip macchiato with skim milk, double whip cream and sprinkles at Starbucks. For someone who could conceivably win higher office Mayor Nelsen needs to grow another layer of skin.

That extra layer may come in handy next year when Mayor Nelsen hears the gentle baying of goats and gets a whiff of chicken poop from his neighbor's yard.

THE PINOCCHIO SYNDROME

If you read a lot of political analysis you might have noticed that pundits have been comparing Secretary Hillary Clinton with President Richard Nixon. They haven't been comparing her to President Nixon's successes: such as, opening relations with China, initiating the end of the Cold War by engaging in nuclear arms talks with Soviet Secretary General Brezhnev, ending the draft, founding the Environmental Protection Agency, and signing Title IX that prevented gender bias in universities, among other things. No, pundits have been comparing Sec. Clinton with his faults, namely his strained relationship with the truth and trustworthiness.

How do voters see the similarities? Let me count the ways. Let us start with her poll numbers. Everyone already knows she is killing her competition in the polls for the Democratic presidential nomination. But if you look closely she is not very well liked. According to *The New York Times*, "In the one by ABC News and *The Washington Post,* only 41 percent said that she was honest and trustworthy while 52 percent said that she wasn't." Sound familiar?

Sec. Clinton dodging the press during the first month of her campaign is reminiscent of Pres. Nixon's disdain for the media. Pundits have also compared her running of the state department and the Clinton Foundation as Nixsonian in lack of transparency.

As much as the Republicans will chuckle as her Democratic rivals bring up Sec. Clinton's shared quality of truthfulness with Pres. Nixon, it may also remind them of the 1968 election. Many Republicans had some profound misgivings about voting for Nixon, but he was their heir apparent and Republicans didn't have any choice. That sounds familiar too.

TRUMP WINS MISS USA

If the presidential contest were held today between the two candidates who attract the most people to their rallies, it would be Democrat Bernie Sanders and Republican Donald Trump. Presidential candidate Sen. Sanders has been speaking to sell out crowds, filling stadiums and convention centers. He is the equivalent of a democratic rock star. He has been campaigning on hard issues such as income inequality, health care for all, stopping climate change and fair trade pacts. It took a long time for Sen. Sanders to decide to run for president and he has been humbled by the response.

Not his evil twin. Mr. Trump has been talking about running for president for 20 years and expects a crowd when he speaks, even if he has to pay them. Affectionately referred to as a farce to be reckoned with, he hasn't delved too deeply into policy, unless building a wall between Mexico and the United States counts – for which Mr. Trump says Mexico will pay.

Mr. Trump has been long on rhetoric and short on policy but still sees himself as the most successful person to run for president, ever. The rest of us see him as the most successful candidate in attracting media attention to himself, ever.

Mainstream Republicans have tried to marginalize his impact on the race. When Mr. Trump spoke in Phoenix the Arizona GOP establishment snubbed him and did not attend. Only the original crypt keeper, former governor Jan Brewer, came out in support of Mr. Trump.

Lindsay Graham, Senator from South Carolina, reflects the Republican establishment sentiment toward Mr. Trump. In an interview on CNN Sen Graham said, "Donald Trump is a 'wrecking ball' who has put the Republican Party's future on the line with his controversial remarks about Mexican immigrants. I think he's hijacked the debate. We need to push back. This is a defining moment for the Republican Party. We need to reject this," he said.

Stage Right - Enter Scott Walker

Governor of Wisconsin, Scott Walker, just declared his candidacy for president and the announcement always guarantees a bump in the polls, which did happen, just not for him. Mr. Trump has skyrocketed to first or second place in all the major national polls, and always ahead of Gov. Walker.

If Mr. Trump is a "demagogue" and a "wrecking ball" who doesn't represent the mainstream Republican, then why is he doing so well in the polls?

The minute he announced his candidacy and started opening his mouth I thought his poll numbers would tank, but the opposite happened. The more outrageous he talks the more popular he gets. It's one thing for the establishment to whine and moan about a fringe candidate, and quite another when he becomes their number one choice.

THE REST OF THE STORY

This is a sad personal story so just go back to the news if you don't want to read it. It's intriguing though, and has never failed to leave any listener in a state of shock.

This time last year was my family's eviction trial. We got up on a Tuesday morning like any other, but it wasn't like any other. I put on my professional green dress, choked down some cereal, and drove with my children and husband to the courthouse. We entered the courtroom and took a bench to ourselves. I started to feel like I couldn't breathe and that I was going to pass out. Within the hour I was going to find out if my dad and step mom would be able to kick us out of our family home.

The courtroom was full except for the row behind us. I put my arm around my husband to try and calm myself as I felt something brush by. I sensed the empty bench start to fill with people. I could feel both of my grandmothers and my babysitter, Mrs. Gates, sitting behind me. I also sensed an entire row of people I barely knew, but relatives none the less, who had come to support their descendants. My lungs filled with air and I calmed down.

Judge Vortmann had decided the afternoon before in a tentative ruling that my husband and I had a living estate. He reiterated his findings at the beginning of our hearing and gave my dad and stepmom's lawyer five minutes to make his case that it wasn't. Their over-paid lawyer stammered and mentioned something about how we had bought a dishwasher and stove. He had also slapped an elder abuse charge on us when we tried, in vain, to alert my parents about their grandson's condition. They didn't want to hear it.

The judge quickly ruled in our favor.

I thought that my dad and step mom would lick their wounds, call it quits, and let us keep our family home. But they proceeded to sue to kick us out of our home, and they were successful. Now, a year later I know why they couldn't stop and why my pathetic pleadings with my mom for her help fell on deaf ears. Mom, dad and my stepmom had shared the same maid for 29 years - and they had promised her our house.

In better times, I was the family historian and the family caretaker. As my parents' youngest daughter, and the only child to give them grandchildren, I just assumed I would be the one to care for them into their old age. My dad had my stepmother, Tam, who is 12 years younger, but my mom lived alone. Even though my mom would have never won any "mother-of-the-year" awards, I wanted to be a role model for my kids on how you treat the older generation. Many times when my mom needed help it was planned, but just as many they were not, and I always dropped everything to come to her aid. I was honest, loyal and would rather have cut off my left arm than not keep my word.

But, so was their maid, and maybe even more.

After 30 years the maid knows me, and knows how close I was to my parents and stepmom. She also knows how close they used to be to their grandchildren. I don't know how she reconciled in her mind that my husband, kids and I got kicked out of our home so her family could move in. I assume my parents told her the same lies they told other family members and their lawyer. I don't know.

POLITICAL FIX continued on **8 »**

Initiative

Continued from p. 1

as I'm sure all of you are well aware. So why do you want to be wasteful? Why would you want to burn through taxpayers' hard earned money over an inevitable ordinance change that you could resolve yourselves? Just to be stubborn," she said.

City Manager Mike Olmos has 15 days to prepare a ballot title and summary. Or, he may choose to negotiate with the UFFF on the terms of the initiative and suggest that the city council approve a new animal ordinance. This would legalize goats and chickens now and avoid the cost of putting the measure on the ballot.

If the UFFF collects 7000 signatures, the measure will go on the June Primary ballot and cost the city $120,000. If the UFFF gathers 4800 signatures, it will go on the November General Election ballot. There would be minimal costs if the initiative went on the November ballot because the Food Freedom Act would be sharing space and expenses with many other measures.

There is some urgency, in Freeman's case and those with small children, she said, in that the children need to be fed now--not in either June or November.

Susan Walsh, Vice Chairwoman for UFFF, reiterated the inevitability of the initiative passing.

"Americans are waking up to their loss of liberty and when the dust settles and urban farming is embraced in the Central Valley, which side of history do you want to be on," she said.

Walsh said that many large cities in California, and the country, allow chickens and miniature goats in residential areas.

She continued during public comment, "In these hard economic times where drought and unemployment, and other environmental and social disasters abound, Americans want to and should be free to be self-sufficient and self-reliant. You are not our parent. You are not our bosses. You are our public servants, and as such you are called by a Higher Power to do the will of the People."

Pro-goat activists at the July 6 Visalia City Council meeting.

The Family Food Freedom Act is the result of a June 1 city council vote against allowing chickens in residential areas. Councilmembers Collins, Link and Nelsen voted against changing the household pet ordinance, while councilmembers Gubler and Shuklian voted in favor. The UFFF now has 180 days to get the required signatures. The following document is what the UFFF submitted to the city clerk. Olmos has until July 21 to respond.

FAMILY FOOD FREEDOM ACT

Food producing animals may be kept by any Family household within the Visalia City limits, as follows: A maximum of up to six (6) chickens, and up to four (4) miniature goats (miniature goats shall mean Nigerian Dwarf or African Pygmy breeds of goats), combined. A total maximum of ten (10) food producing animals shall not be exceeded per Family household.

The following requirements must be met:

(1) No Roosters may be kept.

(2) No intact male goats older than ten (10) weeks (intact means not neutered).

(3) There must be at least ten (10) square feet of permeable land area available for each chicken, plus adequate enclosed shelter space for all chickens.

(4) There must be at least one hundred (100) square feet of permeable land area available for each miniature goat, plus adequate shelter space for each miniature goat.

(5) Adequate shelter must be provided to protect the food producing animals from the elements and to prevent wildlife or other predators from gaining entry.

(6) Adequate fencing shall be provided to prevent the food producing animals from escaping when not in their shelters.

The number of food producing animals allowed under this section shall not be counted against the number of dogs and/or cats allowed under other provisions of this code (see the municipal codes permitting up to four dogs and/or cats combined per family household within the City limits).

Tourism

Continued from p. 1

Wyndham brand. The remodeling of the convention center and upcoming remodeling of two major hotels "was a major selling point," Blanco said, in winning a bid for a new convention coming to town.

More hotel development is also in the planning phase.

In May, the Visalia Planning Commission approved a conditional use permit to Ayan

Hospitality, LLC, to build a 95-room hotel on 2.66 acres on the northwest corner of Plaza Dr. and Crowley St.

At their June 8 meeting, the commission also approved a conditional use permit for a 5-story, 104-room Holiday Inn Express on West Cypress Ave. just west of Akers St. Owners of the property, Grand Shangrila International, Inc., also owners of the Hampton Inn and Suites in Tulare. This is all good news to for the convention and visitor's bureau, which currently sees an approximate 1,200-room inventory of bureau members for the city, Blanco said. Not all hotels are members of the bureau, and therefore those rooms are not included in the tally.

More rooms aids in bringing business into the city.

"That's beneficial," Blanco said. "We can bid on bigger conventions with more rooms."Some of the major assets and selling points for Visalia, Blanco said, include the fact the convention center is so close to a vibrant downtown, "which is very walkable and friendly."

Many cities' convention center are located in a now-empty downtown with little to see or do.

"We have small town charm, with big city amenities," she said.

The county as a whole is seeing demand and growth, said Eric Coyne, Tulare County tourism manager and film commissioner.

"Tourism is up," in the unincorporated areas of the county, he said.

While, the Wuksachi Lodge in Sequoia is the largest Transit Occupancy Tax earner in the county, many other locations are up as well including motels in Three Rivers and various bed and breakfast locations throughout the county, Coyne said.

"Consumer confidence has grown a bit," he said, with more people spending vacation dollars.

And, he said, there is an increase in potential with proposals for more possible hotel/motels in the area.

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Hanford's Historic Buildings Solid

Dave Adalian

Hanford is looking at a hefty price tag for upgrades on a quartet of historic downtown buildings, but the good news is those buildings have weathered the test of time admirably.

The buildings in question -- the Hanford Civic Center, the Bastille Building, the Veterans Memorial Building and the former fire station on Lacey Boulevard -- were the subject of a recent study by Lane Engineering of Visalia that concluded all four are in need of expensive seismic retrofits and changes to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The good news is all are essentially sound and can continue to serve the city for years to come, provided those costly upgrades are performed.

Results of the engineering study were presented to the City Council at a study session July 7. On hand to give the report were city building superintendent Randy Shaw, engineer John Alanto, who performed the study for Lane, and Public Works director Lou Camara, who started on a positive note.

"We're happy to report our existing buildings are in good shape for the age of these buildings," he said. "There is some need for some improvements. It's that time to do some renovations if we're ready."

Storming the Bastille

While the presentation began with the Civic Center, where the council was meeting, the highest priority should be the Bastille, the group told the council.

"It's an historical building. It's in a civic park area of our community. It's a jewel of this city," Camara said. "You're looking at a 100-year-old-plus building, so there's a lot of renovation work that's been deferred for years."

Replacement of the Bastille's roof is the most pressing need, one that would prevent the building from deterioration that has already begun, and the city has already set aside some $250,000 for that purpose. Also needed are a fire sprinkler system, changes to minimize damage during an earthquake and the addition of handicap parking, bathrooms, ramps and access, as well as updates to the electrical system.

The cost has been estimated at some $570,000, which does not include an additional $300,000 to $400,000 for changes to the building's interior. Those "tenant" costs could be paid by a potential renter. The building has been unoccupied since 2009.

City Manager Darrel Pyle reiterated the building should be a top priority for action, especially replacing the aging, inadequate roof.

"The Bastille is the building that needs the most attention," he said. "If that doesn't happen, it's going to continue to decay."

Alanto was reassuring about the building's condition.

"For an 1897 building," he said, "this is in very good condition, an excellent building."

Civic Center Is Sound

The situation is less pressing and the fixes less costly at the Civic Center, Alanto reported. There was no damage found during inspections, but he recommended seismic upgrades to the unreinforced masonry building to secure some of its architectural elements and to tie sections of the building together. The ceiling is in need of load testing, and the roof is scheduled for replacement.

"These types of building tend to perform poorly in earthquakes," Alanto said, citing the damage caused to similar structures by a quake in the 1980s in Coalinga. "The mortar is in very excellent condition in this building. It is a brittle material, so during a seismic event, there could be some cracking, even some partial failures."

The city has already begun laying aside money for the project and could handle some of the improvements in-house for additional savings. Replacing the roof of the 90-year-old building is still five or six years in the future, according to city staff.

ADA Concerns at Vets Building

The cause for concern at the Veterans Building, which is still owned by the county but may soon be purchased by the city, is compliance with ADA requirements. Alanto said the parking is too far from the building's handicap entrance, the slope of its wheelchair ramp too steep, its rails too short and path widths too narrow.

Overall, the building, which was constructed in 1925, is in good shape, he said. However, when the building's air conditioning was installed, some of the roof supports were cut, and while the roof appears stable, the situation should be addressed. There was also some cracking of the veneer on the north chimney, and part of the building is supported by a bow truss, which may not be adequate. A similar problem was discovered at the Fox Theater, Alanto said.

Fixing Fire Station Costly

Hanford's Civic Auditorium

The Hanford Bastille. Photo by Wikipedia user 'Armona.'

The final building reviewed by the study is the youngest and perhaps the most problem-plagued. The former fire station on Lacey Boulevard, which most recently has been used for storage, would need $2.2 million in improvements were the city to go ahead with plans to turn it into a community center. The change from use as a fire station to a high-occupancy building is the reason for the expense.

"The entire building has to be renovated as a brand new building," Alanto said.

The concrete building, which was constructed in the 1940's, contains no internal steel rebar supports. The building's front, constructed of sheer masonry walls, would have to be reinforced in a way that would change its appearance. The bathrooms would require remodeling, new stairs and possibly and elevator would have to be installed, as well as a fire sprinkler system, and changes to bring the building into ADA compliance are needed.

As it stands, the former station, which has suffered interior damage due to exposure to the elements, could continue to be used as storage. Cost to demolish the building is estimated at $275,000.

Agriculture

More Restrictions Hit State's Water Supplies

Kate Campbell, CFBF

As water supplies deteriorate around California, already-tight supplies are being cut further, some water-right holders are challenging curtailment of their supplies, agencies continue to assess the impact of unforeseen restrictions on Lake Shasta, and members of Congress are promoting legislation intended to make the state's water more reliable.

"The water situation continues to become more critical for many California farms and ranches, as water supplies become more restricted," California Farm Bureau Federation President Paul Wenger said, in announcing the organization's support for legislation introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives at the end of June.

"There's no time to waste," Wenger said, referring to a series of events that underscored the severe water shortages facing many parts of California.

For example, the State Water Resources Control Board has been issuing a stream of curtailment orders to senior water right holders to stop diversions.

Last week, the agency ordered diversions halted on the Merced River for senior water rights dating back to 1858; it also issued curtailments for all pre-1914 and post-1914 appropriative rights on the Upper San Joaquin River.

The announcements affected 16 water rights held by 11 owners. A curtailment notice was also sent to the city of San Francisco for four appropriative water rights on the Tuolumne River, dating back to 1903.

Officials said curtailment notices previously were sent to senior water rights holders during the 1976-77 drought, but they did not extend as broadly then as this year.

As of June 26, a total of 8,721 junior water rights and 297 senior water rights in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River watersheds and delta had been notified that there is insufficient water in the system to serve their rights.

CFBF Water Resources Director Danny Merkley urged right holders who receive curtailment notices to respond to all official notices when required to do so. He advised recipients of curtailment notices to ask for clarification of difficult-to-understand, bureaucratic language and official orders, to avoid what he called "complicated and costly misunderstandings."

"As supplies continue to decline through the summer, it's expected more senior rights will be impacted by limited water availability," the water board said in a statement announcing the latest round of cuts, adding that curtailments will be lifted in the autumn by priority of right as soon as appropriate.

Several irrigation districts are now challenging in court the curtailment of pre-1914 water rights—rights established before the state water board was created—saying the board doesn't have the authority to restrict these senior rights.

A miscalculation of water temperatures in Shasta Lake now casts doubt that a number of pending water transfer agreements can be fulfilled.

That unanticipated problem has the potential to create crop losses of $3.5 billion to $4.5 billion and lead to fallowing of an additional 485,000 acres, the California Farm Water Coalition said, citing estimates from water agencies in the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys.

Releases from Shasta, the main reservoir serving the federal Central Valley Project, will be cut by about half of average for this time of year. Water retained behind the dam will be used to cool Sacramento River temperatures and support spawning by federally protected fall- and winter-run chinook salmon.

Sacramento River settlement contractors, who'd agreed to transfer water to farmers in need, will not have the water they'd contracted in advance to sell.

"Crops were planted with promises made for water deliveries," Farm Bureau's Merkley said, "but because of miscalculations, some crops with significant investment may not make it to harvest."

As of Sunday, Shasta held 60 percent of its historic storage for the date, or 48 percent of capacity. Lake Oroville, the main reservoir for the State Water Project, stood at 48 percent of average and 38 percent of capacity.

The period from now until Sept. 30 usually brings the heaviest demand on stored water supplies.

"We need solutions to this crisis and assurances that we are taking steps to ensure future supply reliability," Wenger said. "Californians and all Americans depend on the food and farm products grown in our state, and we all benefit from policies that add flexibility to California water management."

Wenger said CFBF supports federal water legislation introduced in the House—the Western Water and American Food Security Act of 2015.

RESTRICTIONS continued on **13 »**

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Buried Drip Irrigation, Strip-Tillage Systems Providing Water Savings

Cecilia Parsons, Sustainable Conservation

As the California drought continues, higher yields per acre, coupled with the critical need to use water more efficiently, are making silage and alfalfa growers take another look at both subsurface and ground level drip irrigation solutions for their crops.

"Yields and water use efficiency are driving demand for this technology," Todd Rinkenberger, Regional Manager for NetafimUSA confirmed. NetafimUSA (www.netafimusa.com) is a worldwide leader in drip irrigation solutions with local offices and a manufacturing plant in Fresno, CA where they manufacture a comprehensive line of drip/micro irrigation products. Rinkenberger observes that as the drought continues, his company is seeing dramatic changes in the use of drip irrigation solutions for orchards and row crops in the Central Valley.

Alfalfa growers tend to use the more permanent subsurface systems while corn silage growers have a need for flexibility with both surface and subsurface delivery.

Subsurface drip is the application of water below the soil surface through emitters with discharge rates in generally the same range as surface drip. Drip lines with a lifetime of 6-12 years are buried 8-18 inches below the surface on 30-80 inch centers between lateral drip lines depending on soil type. Surface drip tape has the same setup only the tape is on the surface and used only once.

A pressurized system, as well as filtering and filter maintenance system, are necessary for drip irrigation with all crops. Water treatment capability and fertilizer injection are also required.

De Jager Farms, Inc., a custom farming company that manages 17,000 acres of dairy forage and alfalfa production in Chowchilla, CA is an early adopter of subsurface drip in corn silage. Nate Ray, one of the farm managers at De Jager farms, has been actively involved in converting fields from flood to drip irrigation.

"We decided to go that route three years ago as the water shortage began," said Ray. "The potential for water savings with subsurface drip prompted us to look for an alternative to flood."

Ray said the first field was chosen because of its lower water holding capacity. He also believed subsurface drip had the potential for better field uniformity and irrigation efficiency. He is also pleased with the yields from his first silage field.

Compared to adjacent fields under flood, the 180 acres of corn silage yielded three tons plus per acre, using an acre foot less water.

With flood, corn silage takes 40 inches depending on soil type. Ray said they applied just under 30 inches.

The transition to buried drip however requires a significant change in approach to tillage practices. In order to utilize subsurface drip lines for row crops, tillage can now only occur between rows. Tilling the entire field will destroy buried drip tape, so a transition to strip-till, a form of conservation tillage, becomes necessary. Strip-till involves disturbing only a narrow strip of land where the crop is planted using precision guidance while leaving the rest of the field intact. The buried drip system therefore fits well with De Jager Farms because they already had years of success with the strip-till system, Ray said.

The initial subsurface drip field had been in a strip-till corn and no-till winter forage rotation. Ray said they did a flood pre-irrigation, planted, then shanked in the drip lines eight inches below the surface. They did not want to go deeper with the drip, he said because lighter soils make it more difficult to push water out.

Combining this technology with conservation tillage delivers additional water saving benefits. The soil's capacity to hold water improves as organic matter builds. As a result, the soil also has a high nutrient holding capacity. Ray finds that he is also able to more precisely control nutrient application through the drip irrigation system, a key challenge that many dairy farmers experience with flood irrigation systems.

However, existing drip irrigation systems cannot handle liquid manure, and Ray has had to purchase additional synthetic fertilizers in spite of having plenty of manure, the normal source of nutrients on dairies. Seeing this challenge as an opportunity, De Jager Farms has partnered with Sustainable Conservation (www.suscon.org) and NetafimUSA to test technology that allows liquid manure to be applied through drip systems.

Field selection for subsurface drip is an important consideration Ray said. High gopher populations in fields can affect the integrity of a subsurface system and lead to higher labor costs for eradicating the pests.

Ray said he anticipates installing more subsurface systems in alfalfa and working more silage acres into the rotation.

Two Merced-area growers report successful prior years with surface drip systems in their corn silage crops. Both Kurt New and Matt Strickland are now in their second year of planting corn silage and using surface drip to irrigate. New, who manages crops for TeVelde Farms said he furrow pre–irrigates then installs the drip tape.

New said water conservation is the motivation, keeping fields in production with less water. In his case, subsurface drip does not work because of the high traffic with silage choppers. Their farming operation also employs conventional tillage methods, and they don't have experience with strip-till. Strickland also said he went with the surface drip system due to a lack of a GPS system in the tractors he rents.

In the last three years, Rinkenberger said, the number of alfalfa acres irrigated with subsurface drip irrigation as increased statewide. Netafim and University of California Cooperative Extension alfalfa specialist Dan Putnam pegged the growth to four percent of the total alfalfa acres in the state. Rinkenberger said the highest rates are in the Valley areas from Woodland to Bakersfield. Drip adopters in silage are fewer, but the growth there is centered in the higher dairy production areas of Merced, Stanislaus, Tulare, and Kings counties.

The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service has cost share funding for growers who adopt conservation tillage practices. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) pays about $18 per acre for growers who enter into a contract for implementing no-till or strip-till on their fields. Similar cost share funding also exists for drip irrigation projects.

Sustainable Conservation (www.suscon.org) is a conservation organization with an office in the Central Valley working to promote low intensity tillage and irrigation efficiency practices that have both an economic and environmental benefit. Ladi Asgill, Sr. Project Manager, indicates that as more farmers consider integrating drip irrigation with strip-till, there are many experienced farmers in the Valley willing to share their experiences with others. Asgill is excited about the business benefits but encourages farmers considering switching to drip irrigation to think not just about water savings, but also about the impact it could have on their overall nutrient management plan, particularly as it relates to manure application.

Dairy coach tours are currently scheduled to visit dairies in the Merced County area where interested producers can learn about the latest methods of precision tillage and irrigation systems. The tours are the result of a partnership between California Ag. Solutions and Sustainable Conservation.

For information about the July 15th strip-till tour, visit http://www.suscon.org/blog/2014/01/get-more-from-less-with-conservation-tillage. Another tour is scheduled for August 26th and will focus on new technologies that utilize liquid manure in drip irrigation. Contact John Cardoza (209) 576-7731, jcardoza@suscon.org for details.

Buried Drip Irrigation, Strip-Tillage Systems Providing Water Savings

Nancy Vigran

It is fair to say that the California drought has affected numerous businesses and people in the South Valley. While Woodlake's Monrovia Nursery operation has felt some effect, it really has no major complaints due to lack of water.

The 650-acre nursery has been affected to some degree, said Reiner Kruger, technical services coach for Monrovia, admitting that the nursery has cut back production a bit. But, the fact that the nursery has recycled its water since developing the land in 2004 has aided it through the drought quite well.

The Monrovia Nursery business was originally started in Southern California in a town of the same name in 1926. Thirty years later the business moved to nearby Azusa. Through its decades of development, the business has expanded nationwide and now maintains growing locations in Oregon, Georgia and the Woodlake facility. The former 545-acre Azusa facility was closed and the property sold, as Woodlake came into production, although the corporate offices are still there.

The water table at the Woodlake nursery is pretty high, Kruger said. It sits alongside Road 196, north of Highway 198. The land here was once a lake, he said.

One of the two reservoirs at Monrovia Nursery in Woodlake, where water not utilized by plants has been piped back and disinfected, then pumped back into the reservoirs to be reused for watering again. Nancy Vigran/Valley Voice

But, "the Governor (Brown) is expecting people to cutback, and we feel it prudent to cutback as well," he said.

Monrovia has water rights to the St. John's River, and also has 18 functioning wells that were part of the property when the nursery purchased it.

The nursery in Azusa implemented a recycled water program when management saw legislation coming regarding water runoff, Kruger said. The company spent $1.2 million to develop the system and actually realized $250,000 savings in production costs the first year, he said. The recycling development was paid off within a few years.

It was the intent to set up a recycled water system from the get-go in Woodlake.

"It was not even a question, we were going to do it here," Kruger said.

Each greenhouse has a drain system that feeds into a pipe carrying water to a pumping station. Pumping stations add chlorine to the

SAVINGS continued on **13 »**

Abigail Trevino's Troubles Deepen with City of Visalia

No winners – only losers, except for the lawyers

The following is an update to the August 7th, 2014 Valley Voice article about Abigail Trevino

Catherine Doe

A year ago the Visalia City Council fined homeowner, Abigail Trevino, $29,500. The fine was for code violations, late fees, excessive police calls to her house for 10 years and a SWAT Team raid February, 2014. The cost to the city was approximately $15,000 and the late fees added up to approximately $14,300.

At that time Councilwoman Amy Shuklian mused that Trevino's fine should be double while Councilman Warren Gubler voted to reduce the fine to the actual costs incurred to the city. After a public comment session with city staff and police testifying to impose the fines, and neighbors and friends testifying against, the city council voted on the above amount recommended by city staff.

The council voted to transfer the responsibility of the fine to the Tulare County Assessors' office and have a lien put on her home. With a $30,000 lien and $60,000 mortgage, Trevino's house was upside down and she would lose it in five years to a forced tax lien sale. The city council voted for the fine because they felt it would be better for everyone if she just moved out of the neighborhood or even Visalia, but Trevino didn't even have the money to do that.

It didn't seem that things could get any worse - until they did.

Trevino decided to fight the fine and filed court papers in October, 2014. Even thought there was a stay on her case, the Tulare County Assessor tried in November to collect its money by billing her bank who held the mortgage. This tactic apparently worked as, without Trevino's permission, her bank paid the lien and tacked $31,000 onto her mortgage. Now, instead of facing a forced tax lien sale in five years, Trevino faced foreclosure in months. Before the lien her mortgage was a challenge to pay. Now it was impossible.

After receiving a letter from her bank that it paid the lien, and her mortgage had increased by 50 percent, Trevino filed a Writ of Mandate with Tulare County Superior Court. In the Writ of Mandate, filed in December, Trevino requested Visalia give her money back. The Mandate also outlines why, she felt, the majority of the fines were unjustified in the first place. Trevino's case reaches back to 2005. The Mandate claims that the City of Visalia cannot go back a decade to bill a resident for police or fire calls. They can only go back one calendar year.

Abigail Trevino has tried to the repair damage done on her screen door and door jam after the SWAT Team broke in — this is the end result. Catherine Doe/Valley Voice

To hear her case, Trevino was assigned Tulare County Superior Court Judge Reed who ordered the City of Visalia and Trevino to try mediation. On June 23, Trevino and a lawyer she paid just for the mediation, Allen Broslovsky, met at retired Judge Broadman's office who would conduct the mediation. Visalia Lawyer Leonard Herr was in a separate room negotiating on behalf of Visalia.

According to Trevino and Broslovsky the mediation started out vastly different from its unfortunate conclusion. Broslovsky and Herr had met previously to lay the ground work and give Trevino time to consider Visalia's offer. Broslovsky communicated to Trevino that the City of Visalia was eager to see the back of her and her sons.

Visalia's lawyer used the word "banished" knowing the term might make Visalia look bad employing an 18th century procedure to a 21st century problem. But, Broslovsky said, that is exactly how the powers that be in Visalia felt, because they were hoping her alleged gang-member sons would leave town for good and take some of their gang-member friends with them. Herr was ready to negotiate on behalf of the city to give Trevino $30,000 to leave town and wanted her to consider it before mediation began.

Trevino discussed the prospect with friends and family, and the thought of starting out fresh was intriguing, she said. They bounced around the idea of moving to Porterville or Lindsay. But, Trevino was reluctant about staying in Tulare County because one of the people who most wanted her to leave town was a Tulare County Sheriff who lived two houses down from hers. She felt that the harassment would not end until she left the county all together. She started to seriously consider Bakersfield.

When mediation began on the afternoon of June 23, Herr had all but resolved that Trevino would be banished from Visalia to Bakersfield. The offer was written up on a large piece of construction paper and taped to the wall. It stated that if Trevino agreed to sell her home in 90 days, leave Visalia and never come back, the city would do the following: Release the tax lien, pay her $30,000, and pay the mediation fee. In addition, Herr promised that the Tulare County Probation office would work with Kern County to make a smooth transition for one of her sons who was on probation. Everything was arranged. All Trevino had to do was agree.

As Trevino and a friend waited in their private mediating room for the city's final offer, Broadman and her lawyer entered with a new wrinkle. Trevino had been insisting all along that her bank had already paid Visalia $30,500 and that's why she filed the case in the first place. Herr had finally taken notice. Trevino's friend googled Tulare County's Assessors' office where two payments of $15,279 popped up to prove what she was saying was true.

That's when everything started to unravel. Visalia's offers went from $30,000, to $15,000, to Broadman saying she would be lucky to walk away with $10,000. Because Herr finally cottoned on, seven months after the fact, that Visalia got its money, and the safety of Abigail's neighborhood went out the window, along with the city's offer.

ABIGAIL continued on **10 »**

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Political Fix

Continued from p. 3

If you erase the eviction, her family deserves the house as much as ours. And she does have one quality that I lack. She worships them. My mom, dad and stepmom have been very generous with her and they are very wealthy people. From that has come adulation.

I don't admire money like they or most people do, and I'm not impressed when wealthy people act human. I also think the super rich should scrub their own toilettes. My mom, dad and stepmom have never liked that quality in me. They are the type of people who think the air should be cleaner in first class because they paid more for their plane ticket. We do not share the same beliefs and we do not have the same priorities. And that was getting on their nerves, especially my stepmom.

There is a happy ending though. My family ended up with a very nice place to live and my mom will be taken care of for the rest of her life by her loyal servant. That worried me when she cut off communication with my family. I would have always entrusted my mom's life to her maid. Now it looks like I have no choice.

Asphalt

Continued from p. 1

General Engineering, Inc., of Porterville along with other members of the community, attended the July 7 public hearing to oppose Papich's permit. As an owner of commercial property in Goshen since the 1950's, Wells' objections to the asphalt plant were out of concern for the community of Goshen rather than any potential for competition. Wells is close to retiring so he is slowly getting out of the asphalt business. He believes that large companies take advantage of the fact that working people cannot get to the meetings to object to environmentally unfriendly plants.

"Well, it's only Goshen" is a common phrase that angers Wells.

In his final comments after presenting his case in opposition to the Papich asphalt plant permit, Wells said, "I don't want Goshen to be a dumping ground. I think the decision is all about money, but not much money for the county--just Papich. The county is getting the short end of the stick as far as wear and tear. We are beating our roads to death," Wells said.

At the end of the public hearing Supervisor Allan Ishida recommended that Wells' appeal be tentatively denied. He did recommend that the county staff address Wells' and other business owners' concerns about the special use permit and report back to the supervisors in two weeks.

Supervisor Steve Worthley closed the public hearing but said that individuals could comment on the findings at the July 21 meeting.

The Temporary Permit

In the spring of 2013, Papich Construction was given a temporary permit to supply asphalt for the Road 80 and Betty Dr. construction project along Highway 99. At the time, the county felt that having an asphalt plant onsite would be a money saving strategy. Not so say Brown and Wells. There are four asphalt companies in Tulare County, all of which reside at their rock source. Papich Construction costs are actually higher because they have to truck in their gravel from Orosi, 25 miles away.

Wells and Brown were told they could voice their concerns during a public hearing on the temporary permit in 2013, but none was held. Papich's permit was approved through a streamlined process used when it involves a plant inside a Public Works Staging Area. Wells appealed the approval of the permit based on the fact that the application was incomplete, there was no traffic impact study, and the property was not being used as described in their application. During the appeal Wells and the other opposing parties backed off their opposition. According to Wells, the county guaranteed everyone that Papich Construction's permit was only temporary until the Betty project was completed.

This fact is confirmed by an information letter for a "Public Works Staging Area" meeting. In the letter Michael Spata, then assistant Resource Management Agency (RMA) director, said, "There is a greater confidence and assurety that public project staging areas will not turn into a permanent outdoor storage or office use and there is less need to go through the formal hearing process to locate and approve these uses. With the large number of road projects that the county is working on currently as well as a number of their public projects being proposed, there is a need to have an expedited process to establish these staging areas so as to not jeopardize federal or state funding."

Now that the Betty Dr. project is winding down, Papich wants to make their asphalt plant permanent. In their application they requested to expand their operation from 3,700 tons per day to 8,000 tons per day. The owners want to change their permit to allow on-site retail and commercial sales of their material. On May 27, Papich got his wish when the Tulare County Planning Commission approved the special use permit.

Special Use Permit Appealed

Normally those who oppose a project go to the planning commission meeting to make their case against approving the permit. But neither Wells, Brown or the other two asphalt companies knew the planning commission had Papich Construction on their agenda. Nor did they know that a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Papich Construction Asphalt Plant had been circulating for review for 45 days. Even though the RMA had all interested parties' contact information, and promised all would be notified if any changes were discussed concerning Papich's temporary permit, nobody was notified.

Part of Wells' case against the permit was that neither Goshen School, nor any of the local businesses, or any of the interested parties who appealed the 2013 temporary permit, were notified about the planning commission's meeting. Mike Washburn, current assistant director for the RMA, said public hearing notices were mailed out to business owners within 300 feet of the plant and a legal notice was put in the *Visalia Times-Delta* for one day.

But Wells biggest reason for filing an appeal echoes from permits past, such as CEMEX' special Use Permit in Lemon Cove. Papich Construction has been visibly breaking the terms of their special use permit just as CEMEX did at the Stillwell Mine when four domestic wells went dry. Papich's special use permit specifically states that materials produced at the plant are only to be used on the Road 80 and Betty Dr. projects. Yet Papich Construction has been widely advertising since 2013 their gravel products in magazines, online and in letters to potential customers for outside sales.

During the June 25, 2013 Tulare County Supervisors' meeting both Supervisors Phil Cox and Steve Worthely questioned Papich, the plant's owner, on evidence of their advertising gravel products to the public. Papich responded, "I can assure you that no retail sales other than what we sold to ourselves or proved ourselves on Highway 99 and Road 80 have taken place on this site."

Yet, from 2013 to 2015 there were several instances when the company overtly sold materials to outside customers. In the first two weeks of June of this year, Papich Construction sold materials for the Cartmiill project in Tulare. Papich Construction even made a bid in 2013 to provide the building materials for an RMA project. When Wells confronted RMA about Papich selling the county gravel, Washburn's response was that RMA did not accept their bid.

Wells asked the Board what the consequences were for a company who breaks the terms of their permit. Supervisor Worthley said, Papich had stopped advertising and now it was time to move forward.

Papich Construction isn't the first, nor will it be the last construction firm to mislead Tulare County Supervisors.

But, as Wells said, "Rules without consequences are not rules at all."

During the public hearing on his appeal Wells questioned RMA several times on their monitoring practices. Washburn, Dennis Lehman, Chief Building Official and the supervisors admitted that they do not have the staff to monitor their conditional or special use permits. When Wells questioned Lehman directly on staff available for monitoring, Lehman said there is a "code hotline."

The Papich Construction asphalt plant in Goshen.

Wells' reason for appealing was - if the county doesn't have the staff to monitor the permits they already have, then why are they approving more? County residents' health and safety are being looked after when the supervisors approve a mining or construction permit.

Wells appeal had four other major grounds for not approving a conditional use permit. He cited wear and tear on county roads, the effects of an asphalt plant on the surrounding farmland and the asphalt plant's distance from its source of materials.

According to Mitch Brown, "Tulare County currently has four permitted asphalt plants and all of these plants are located at the source of the rock. Three of these sites are only running at 25-30 percent capacity, and one of the sites sits idle due to a lack of market demand."

This begs the question why the county needs a fifth. Michael Durkee, the lawyer for Papich Construction, said that the asphalt plant will bring jobs and revenue to Tulare County. Brown countered by pointing out that the sales tax revenue will not change but will be redistributed from the existing asphalt plants to the Papich plant.

More importantly, all four currently permitted asphalt companies are located at their source of rock. Papich Construction is located 25 miles away from their rock source in Orosi. That is a round trip of 50 truck miles for every load of gravel. Emissions from these unnecessary truck trips must also be taken into consideration given the fact that the federal government is threatening to take over our local air boards because the San Joaquin Valley cannot meet basic air quality standards.

The county did do a Traffic Impact Study and a DEIR but concluded that there would be no significant impact on county roads. But the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control Districts disagrees with the county's numbers. The air district calculates that if Papich Construction increases to 8,000 tons per day that would translate into 2,256,000 truck miles of emissions and wear and tear on county roads a year. The county counters that it will be 550,000 miles a year. Wells and Brown concur with the air district saying that the county's numbers are wrong. "Just do the math," Wells says.

In addition, Papich's rock source in Orosi cannot supply 8,000 tons of gravel a day. Papich's unknown gravel source needs to be factored into the traffic impact study and DEIR. Papich's other source of gravel would allegedly come from Lemon Cove or Sanger which are further away than Orosi.

Washburn insists the county's numbers are correct and pointed out that Papich Construction will be making significant improvements on Road 64. Road 68 is currently taking the brunt of the traffic but will be closed to through traffic by 2016 once the Betty interchange is complete.

Wells acknowledged that Papich Constructions has offered to pay $731,500 in constructions costs for road 64 improvements, but that is a small price to pay in order to get a special use permit. With permit in hand, the asphalt plant is worth eight to 10 million and Papich has already put it on the market. But, without the permit, the plant is worth close to nothing. In addition, it would cost Papich Construction $500,000 to move the plant if the county denies their special use permit. But Papich does not have a location in which to move. No one else will take an asphalt plant because it's not an environmentally-friendly industry.

Wells' appeal also contends that the effect of the asphalt plant on surrounding farmland has not been thoroughly investigated. Wells said you won't hear birds, see any wildlife, or many plants at an asphalt plant because of the particulate matter produced when making asphalt. Washburn said that according to the DEIR that the plant will not reduce the viability of surrounding farmland. Wells countered that the DEIR was based upon data provided by Papich.

"No one really knows what the effect the fumes and particulate matter will be," Wells said. "They are just saying everything will be OK."

Abigail

Continued from p. 8

After a lot of discussion with Broadman, Trevino finally agreed to settle for $10,000. Broadman strongly advised Trevino to take the offer lest she walk away with nothing, which is what might happen if the case went to trial, she said. Broslovsky also did not want Trevino to walk away empty handed and felt that any amount would be an admission on Visalia's part that they had treated her inappropriately.

There are lots of gang members in Visalia and they all have mothers, none of which have been treated as poorly as Trevino; as far as we know, Broslovsky said.. Broadman and Broslovsky also knew that time was of the essence because the paperwork had to be written up before the next city council meeting, and Herr and Trevino's next court date with Judge Reed on July 8.

Resigned to the fact that she wasn't getting her $30,000 refunded, Trevino wrote to Herr. In the letter dated July 2, ,she asked Herr to honor the settlement worked out in mediation when presenting her case to the city council. She requested that the city send the $10,000 to her bank to help pay her mortgage. She pointed out that this was not taxpayer money and should not have been paid in the first place while her case was still open.

The final decision about the negotiated settlement was to come from the Visalia City Council during closed session at the July 6 meeting. Because there is no love lost between the city council and Trevino, handing over $10,000 to a family they consider a costly liability was in doubt. Even more questionable was Herr's offer of Visalia giving Trevino $30,000 to leave town. Banishing is an antiquated tactic, hard to enforce, and would probably not have been approved by the Visalia City Council. The entire process had taken many hours, and out of all the questions that have arisen during this case, one thing is for sure, legal fees have probably surpassed Trevino's fine.

At the July 6 city council meeting Trevino showed up for the work session that started at 4pm. She used the public comment time to plead her case to the council members to accept the mediated settlement. Council went into closed session at 6pm. She returned at 7pm for the regular meeting and stayed for an hour to hear how they decided on her case.

Not hearing anything, Trevino went to City Manager Mike Olmos outside the chambers and asked him if city council approved the $10,000 settlement. Olmos asked one of Visalia's lawyers who told him they could not comment. Olmos said that if Trevino had had a lawyer, that person would have probably been included in the closed session and would have reported back to her. Olmos did not know what the recourse was for a Visalia citizen who did not have a lawyer.

Abigail Trevino and her dog, Ducky

On July 8, Trevino and Herr showed up for the court date. Judge Reed listened to Herr's presentation and then asked if Trevino had a lawyer. She said no. Trevino tried to explain the situation with her increased mortgage but the judge inferred the time for presenting her case would be during her next court date. Judge Reed told Trevino to put all of her exhibits in a three ring binder and be sure to index them. Trevino's next court date is March 14, 2016.

What the purpose was of all those wasted hours at mediation or how Trevino is supposed to pay her increased mortgage until next March is still a mystery.

Costco

Continued from p. 1

the development isn't really mitigating its impacts, and so the discussion was that reimbursement is necessary to ensure those funds are whole, so the project is fully mitigating its impact."

Mitigating the Mitigation

The plan presented at the July 7 meeting would see half of the sales tax collected by the city from future Costco sales redirected to covering the reduced development and impact fees. All sales tax generated by other businesses that move into the Costco shopping center once it opens will also go to repayments.

"The sales tax incentive agreement covered certain items we identified being installed in exchange for the sales-tax refund," Doyle explained. "And, those would include the traffic signal at Lacey Blvd. and the entrance to the facility, part of the storm drain, because it services the street, improvements along the street that are outside the reimbursement, so it's stuff that's beyond the curb, the sidewalks, landscaping and medians. ..."

The agreement, which has already been inked by both parties, will see half of the sales tax Costco generates returned to the developers whenever sales at the outlet exceed $5.7 million in a single quarter. The repayments end when the $2 million has been repaid, or after nine years. By comparison, the Costco in Visalia, which is approximately the same size as the 150,000 facility planned for Hanford, generates around $160 million in sales annually. The Hanford Costco must open by Dec. 31, 2017 in order to for the agreement to remain valid.

No Sales Tax Money for Years

The upshot and apparent source of disagreement, or perhaps confusion, arose when it became clear the city would see no sales-tax revenue from any business opened at the new shopping center until the entire $4 million had been repaid.

"So, if Costco opened tomorrow, the other half (of sales-tax revenue) that's not going to the developers will go to impact fees," Doyle told the council. "If another building opens three days later, all the sales tax from that will go to this (repaying the discounted development and impact fees) until it's paid back, which will pay it back faster, obviously."

When questioned by the council, Doyle agreed the city could see no sales-tax revenue from the project making its way into the city's general fund for five to six years, or perhaps as long as nine years, should sales at the new store prove lower than expected. But, once the money is repaid, a total of $4.055 million, the city will be off the hook.

"That's the end of the cost to the city and the general fund," Doyle said.

A Council Divided

However, when the resolution to approve the repayment plan came up for a vote, the shorthanded council split itself in a 2-2 decision. Voting for the plan were Mayor Russ Curry and Councilman Justin Mendes, while Vice Mayor David Ayers and Councilman Francisco Ramirez were against it. Councilman Gary Pannett did not attend the meeting.

The repayment proposal will be brought back for consideration at an upcoming council meeting.

Also failing to gain support in the same vote was a second resolution authorizing a $6.4 million inter-fund loan that would have made funding immediately available for the reconstruction of the East Lacey Blvd. intersection with Highway 43. Because of its proximity to the Highway 198 on-ramp, the intersection will have to be moved to avoid traffic snarls. Current plans call for a roundabout to be constructed at its new location.

The loan, which the city would repay to itself along with 2 percent interest, will also be reconsidered at a future council meeting.

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Briefly...

GOVERNOR BROWN SIGNS MATHIS FIRST BILL INTO LAW

On July 13 Governor Brown signed Assemblyman Devon Mathis' (AD26-Visalia) bill AB661 into law.

AB661 will clean-up and provide uniformity across the state to prevent Real Estate Fraud.

"I thank the Governor for signing my bill into law. My bill received unanimous support throughout the legislature. This bill will provide clarification and provide uniformity, eliminating confusion, to ensure a smooth home purchase transaction for the buyer," stated Mathis.

AB661 is the first bill to be signed by the Governor for Assemblyman Mathis. Of his nine bills he moved forward with during this legislative year, six are still alive and moving through the legislative process.

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND SPECIAL DISTRICT APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE ONLINE

Tulare County residents who would like to become more involved in public policy can now submit an application to do so online. The County of Tulare announced that applications to serve on an advisory board, commission or committee are now accessible in a user-friendly, online format on the Clerk of the Board's website.

The announcement of the online feature was made by County Administrative Officer Jean Rousseau during a recent Tulare County Board of Supervisors meeting. The online application will increase visibility of County practices, while streamlining the application process for boards, commissions and special districts.

"With the new online application, residents interested in being a part of a board or commission will now have a much easier time accessing the information they need to apply for a vacancy," said Michelle Baldwin, Tulare County clerk of the Board. "Our staff is excited to see the improvements that will inevitably come about as a result of the modernized application process."

From agriculture and health care to air pollution and assessment appeals, there more than 80 vacancies available on more than 30 boards, commissions and special districts.

"All vacancies represent a great opportunity for individuals to serve their communities," said Baldwin.

To access an application or to view the full list of vacancies, descriptions and duties for each board or commission, visit the Tulare County Clerk of the Board website at tularecounty.ca.gov/clerkoftheboard. Hard copy applications will still continue be accepted and can be picked up and filed by visiting the County Administrative Office at 2800 W. Burrel Ave, Visalia. For more information, call (559) 636-5000.

PORTERVILLE CITY LIBRARY OFFERS THE GREAT READING ADVENTURE

The Great Reading Adventure is an online reading program offered through the Porterville City Library where users can log their summer reading to earn points and badges. Those points allow users to earn rewards like games, books and physical prizes. There are other ways to earn points and badges too! Users can attend events at the Porterville City Library and find out "Secret Codes" to gain access to even more.

The Great Reading Adventure online platform can be accessed at www.portervillelibrary.org. Just click on the link, register and start earning points this summer. It is easy, free and fun for everyone.

KINGS COUNTY JOB TRAINING OFFICE TRANSITION TO EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

The Kings County Job Training Office is proud to introduce a short-term work experience strategy designed as a bridge from unemployment to gainful employment. JTO can fully underwrite the cost of worker wages and workers compensation insurance. The participating employer would provide training and worksite supervision.

The training is planned to run for a maximum six months. Worksites are sought to sponsor a worker for up to 40 hours per week, with a possibility to move to the employer's payroll if the person demonstrates the appropriate initiative and work skills. Additionally, these workers are qualified to receive State tax credits for businesses located in the Kings County Enterprise Zone.

For more information, please email gus.pena@co.kings.ca.us or phone at 559-585-3561.

WEST HILLS COLLEGE LEMOORE PARAMEDIC PROGRAM SEEKING STUDENTS

West Hills College Lemoore's Paramedic Program is now accepting applications for new students for its August, 2015 start date.

The yearlong program offers students the opportunity to earn an Associate of Science Degree or a certificate of completion.

"Our paramedic program prepares our students to be entry-level paramedics by rapidly introducing evidence-based prehospital care and high-level thinking," said Ralph Herrera, Paramedic Program coordinator and lead instructor. "We continue this amount of high-yield education throughout the program and this ultimately improves patient care at the end of the day."

During the course of the year, students learn about EMS systems, workforce safety and wellness, EMS communications, and about common illnesses and emergency situations. They also learn to perform emergency procedures and about vehicle extraction and special rescue.

To qualify for the program, students must have pre-requisite classes in anatomy, physiology and English and must also have their EMT1 state issued license or National EMT license.

An application for the program is available in the Health Careers office on the WHCL campus. The application deadline is Friday, Aug. 7 by 3 pm.

For more information, call 559-925-3000 or visit http://www.westhillscollege.com/lemoore/academics/health/paramedic.asp.

VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT LAUNCHES FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM

The Visalia Police Department is pleased to announce the launch of the organization's newest social media platforms: Facebook and Instagram. Beginning June 29, the department has a Facebook page and Instagram account which will allow the public to connect with their police department like never before.

"Social media has proven to be an effective tool for law enforcement agencies to share more about our activities and providing valuable information to the community. We are excited to reach the public we serve in different ways and these two sites will help us do just that," Visalia Police Chief Jason Salazar said.

Facebook posts will include traditional media events such as press releases and crime and safety alerts, but will also focus on department programs, various activities, and community outreach efforts.

Instagram will allow the department to share photographs of our hard working employees in a unique and positive way.

Facebook and Instagram will join existing social media sites Twitter and Nixle which the department has used for almost 2 years.

Our Facebook page can be found at "Visalia Police Department". Find us on Instagram at "visaliapd." We invite the public to visit our new sites and give us a "like".

WATER ALERT

California is enduring a historic drought and a growing number of communities across the West have been impacted by severe drought conditions, including the Central Valley.

While natural weather patterns are partially responsible for the severe drought, current federal and state laws are prioritizing the needs of fish OVER the needs of Central Valley families - making the drought exponentially worse.

However, this week, the House of Representatives will vote on my legislation, H.R. 2898, the Western Water and American Food Security Act of 2015. This bill will help Central Valley agriculture, assists our rural communities, and strengthen both our local and national economy.

Earlier today, I joined Speaker John Boehner and Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy for a press conference to discuss my bill. I hope you will take a few moments to watch my remarks by clicking the image below or by visiting my YouTube Channel.

As always, I would love to hear your thoughts on the drought or on any other concerns you may have. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely
David G. Valadao
Member of Congress

SELMA, KINGSBURG NEWSPAPERS MERGE OPERATIONS

Lee Enterprises, the company which holds ownership of the Kingsburg Recorder and Selma Enterprise newspapers, will begin circulating a combined paper in mid-July.

The newspapers will maintain separate web presences.

Beginning July 18, the Hanford Sentinel will cease to be printed locally, instead being printed by the Santa Maria Times.

TULARE COUNTY DROUGHT STATUS UPDATE

The Tulare County Office of Emergency Services has released new drought status numbers with information about private well failures, well permit numbers, rental assistance numbers, the Bottled Water Drinking Program, food relief, and drought-impacted workers.

Information has been submitted by: Tulare County Health & Human Services, the Workforce Investment Board, FoodLink, and the Tulare County Resource Management Agency.

The bottled water drinking program application can be found at: http://goo.gl/KQSGMU.

Residents who need assistance can call 2-1-1 to find local resources and information about housing, food, health, mental health, transit, household goods, employment, and family assistance

ELECTION NOMINATIONS

Pursuant to section 12112(b) of the California Elections Code, Rita A. Woodard, Registrar of Voters announces that Nomination Papers for offices to be voted on at the November 3, 2015 Consolidated Districts Election will be available are available through Friday, August 7, in the Elections Division, Government Plaza, 5951 South Mooney Blvd., Visalia.

For further information regarding filing for an elective office, call (559) 624-7300 or for information on nomination papers that have been filed, check the current candidate list at www.tularecounty.ca.gov/registrarofvoters.

The offices for which Nomination Papers will be available are as follows:

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Columbine
1 Gov. Board Member
Monson-Sultana
2 Gov. Board Members (Area 1, 4)
Stone Corral
2 Gov. Board Members

COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICTS

East Orosi 3 Directors
Ponderosa 2 Directors
Poplar 3 Directors
Richgrove 2 Directors
Tract 92 2 Directors
1 Director (Short Term)

FIRE DISTRICTS

Strathmore 1 Commissioner

IRRIGATION DISTRICTS

Alta: 3 Directors (Div. 3, 4, 7)
Hills Valley: 2 Directors

MEMORIAL DISTRICTS

Exeter: 3 Directors (Veteran Seats)
Lindsay-Strathmore:
1 Director (Veteran, Seat 3)
1 Director (Non Veteran, Seat 4)
1 Director (Veteran, Seat 5)
Woodlake
1 Director (Non Veteran, Seat 3)
1 Director (Non Veteran, Seat 4)
1 Director (Veteran, Seat 5)

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICTS

Strathmore
2 Directors (Seat 2, 3)
Woodville
2 Directors (Seat 1, 5)

Moore Scores from Small Town Sports to the Big Leagues and Back

Nancy Vigran

The walls of Monte Moore's home tell stories. The photos, awards and other memorabilia speak tales of his days in Oklahoma, Kansas and Missouri broadcasting college sports, to his career as a television broadcaster for the Oakland A's and NBC sports, and on to his radio station-owning days broadcasting local high school games to Tulare County listeners.

Moore has spent much of his life on the air, helping fans route for the home team. And, his life has been more than he could have hoped for, he said.

Moore grew up in the small town of Hollis, Oklahoma, which did not have a radio station. He played high school sports, but was sidelined by rheumatic fever being confined to bedrest for three months. He listened to the radio to pass the time, and thought, "I might like to do that."

His father bought a PA system and Moore started announcing to the fans at hometown games.

During those high school days, Moore enjoyed playing basketball, but also became a fast pitch softball catcher, and a good one, for which he became quite well-known in the Mid-West.

At the University of Oklahoma, Moore studied broadcasting. He hoped to play college basketball, which was not in the cards, however, he won the won the bigger prize in meeting the coach's daughter and later taking her hand in marriage.

While on his way for a stint in the Army, Moore was offered a job in radio, right out of college. One of the top softball pitchers in the country, Leo Morris, who recently became a station manager. Morris asked Moore to catch weekend games for him, while also DJ'ing for the radio station during the week.

"I had a summer job being a DJ and catching for him," Moore said.

Following a couple years in the army, Morris had switched stations and took Moore with him, this time to a station where Moore broadcasted Sooner State League Class B Pro baseball.

Job Offers Kept Coming

From there and every station-step beyond, Moore was called on because someone had heard him on the air.

"I never auditioned, never sent in a tape," he said. "Every job I got, except for being a catcher, was because someone heard me."

Moore kept climbing the ladder. He received a call from a station manager in Hutchinson, Kansas who wanted him to broadcast news as well as the National Junior Basketball Tournament. He took the job.

From there a sports network which carried University of Kansas called wanting him to broadcast sports.

"I didn't even ask how much they'd pay me," Moore said.

This was during the Wilt Chamberlain era at the university, Moore said, with a twinkle in his eye.

Not long after, Moore was approached by a Kansas City, Missouri station for radio and television to do news and sports, professional basketball coverage of the Kansas City Steers. This was a big step. It launched him into the professional sports scene.

Charlie Finley, who had acquired the Kansas City A's a year prior, heard Moore on the air, while driving with the A's general manager, Parke Carroll, Moore said.

"He asked Carroll, 'who's that?' I like his enthusiasm," Moore said, Carroll had told him later.

Shortly after Moore went to cover a news conference, where he met Finley and Moore in an elevator. Carroll introduced them.

"Finley said, 'Nice to meet you, how would you like to be my broadcaster?'" Moore said.

When they spoke again by phone, it was a Saturday and Finley gave Moore until Monday noon for a reply. The season started Tuesday and Moore had already missed all of spring training.

"The A's were playing the Baltimore Orioles and I didn't even hardly know a player," Moore said of his first A's broadcast.

When the A's moved west to Oakland in 1968, so did Moore and his family. Moore covered the team on radio and television through 1977.

The most exciting game he called, he said, was the last game of the 1972 division playoffs in Detroit, he said.

Detroit had won two, Oakland had won two, and there was only one game left to decide who would go to the World Series.

The Detroit manager, "Billy Martin, had that team so riled up," Moore said. "It was a high tension-type day.

"We beat Detroit in Detroit to go to the World Series."

Added to Moore's excitement was that this meant it was the first time Moore would cover games nationwide on NBC.

"I can't tell you how excited I was," he exclaimed.

Nationwide Audience

Moore's nationwide broadcast debut was with Curt Gowdy and Tony Kubek. And, as the first game was about to start, "Curt Gowdy put his hand on my leg and said, 'OK kid, just relax now, nothing to worry about, only 32 million people are watching.'

"There I was, working alongside Gowdy, doing the World Series . . . nothing could be better," Moore said.

During his A's broadcasting career, Moore earned six World Series rings with the team. He called Catfish Hunter's 1968 perfect game, one of 23 perfect games ever thrown in the sport of baseball.

But, he wondered about where to go from there. Broadcasters did not make what players did, he said. He had always wanted to own a radio station.

Moving to Porterville

Hearing of two stations under one ownership brought him to Porterville. He had never heard of the town. But, he liked it. He liked the size of the town with a population of 17.000. He brought his wife down and then their children to have a look. He made and offer and found himself the station owner of K-TIP (AM) and K100 (FM) in 1977.

Moore immediately put his sports' experience to work and started broadcasting local high school games of all sports. He hired young college grads interested in sports and news as interns and they covered everything live that they could on K-TIP, airing taped games on the FM station. The station covered band concerts, parades and elections. And, in 1994 when Porterville was named an All-American City, K-TIP was in Oakland to cover the event live.

Monte Moore and his wife Deonne. Nancy Vigran/Valley Voice

"It was very successful and a very good business decision," Moore said.

But Moore's large-stage days were not over. NBC offered him a weekend job covering the game of the week with Wes Parker and Maury Wills. He took a five-year contract and traveled from Porterville all around the country, every weekend of the season.

At Christmas time in 1986, the A's called on Moore again. A television station covering the team wanted him to call just 31 games the next season. He took a five-year contract. Another station, also covering games wanted him to call just 31 games for them as well, this put him at 62 games for the next five seasons. An agreement was made that he could bring along his youngest son, Donnie, as part of the crew.

It was during this time, Moore's associated was Ray Fosse, a current broadcaster of the team today. Fosse had worked alongside Moore a few times during the '70s when he was the A's catcher, but on the disabled list due to injuries.

Many A's pitchers and players worked as color analysts alongside Moore at that time, Fosse said. A color analyst works alongside the broadcaster, often being a former player, who interjects often through their own experience what is happening or what should have, or could have happened during a game.

It was during those few times on air, which turned Fosse to the profession once his playing days were through. Fosse attributes much of his love for broadcasting and his success to Moore.

"It was great . . . for him to mentor me, it was very special," Fosse said.

"Everything with Monte is up front," he said. "I could not have had anyone better for introducing me into announcing baseball."

Fosse's first day on the air with Moore was interesting, Fosse said.

"We were playing the Boston Red Sox," he said. "I was just sitting there with Monte and then from behind third base, here comes this guy, streaking – Monte said to me, 'well, you're the analyst, Ray.'"

Most everywhere Moore has gone, he has made lifelong friendships. He is often called by University of Kansas staff and remains in touch with fellow broadcasters and players he has met during his years in sports.

"We have stayed in touch over the years, and I played in many of his Porterville golf tournaments with him," Fosse said.

Giving Back

The golf tournament Fosse referred to was the Big League Golf-O-Rama, which Moore started and managed for 25 years in Porterville. During those years more than $850,000 were raised for local school athletics and the Porterville Youth Center.

Moore's personality, enthusiasm and hard work has been coveted wherever he has gone, but nowhere more than Porterville. Through his nearly 40 years in the community, he was been named Porterville Man of the Year, won the Alan Coates award, received the Friend of Education recognition twice, and earned recognition from the Tule River Indian Reservation, the Tulare County Executive Council and Proteus, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors and the Porterville City Council.

Moore has a Little League field named after him, he served on the Porterville College Foundation Board, the Parks and Leisure Services Commission and as an elder at the Church of Christ.

He sold his radio stations after 10 years and he wasn't quite ready to retire yet, for the next 15 years he worked in public relations and marketing for Porterville College.

But, through all his careers, being a husband and father, have been the most important to him. He and Deonne have three children, Bruce, Deonna and Donnie. The youngest, Donnie, is superintendent of Porterville Parks and Leisure.

"It has all worked out very well," said Deonne Moore. "I am very proud of him. He is very close to his children and grandchildren."

"I think back as to how lucky I am," Monte Moore said. "I was gone much of the summer and she took care of the kids."

"In baseball," he said, "there are always 161 new days. No other sport has that. Every day, another pitcher and a new team, and I got to broadcast every day."

Farm Groups Mount Challenges to 'Waters' Rule

Christine Souza, CFBF

Now that the federal waters of the U.S. rule has been finalized with publication in the Federal Register, agricultural and other groups are gaining insight on what the rule will mean once it takes effect on Aug. 28—and planning both legal and legislative challenges to its implementation.

"This federal waters of the U.S. rule is likely the most expansive and harmful change to an environmental regulation in decades," said Josh Rolph, California Farm Bureau Federation federal policy manager. "On behalf of our members, we hope to make a clear case to Congress for sending this rule back to the drawing board."

Meanwhile, 27 states joined in a variety of lawsuits against the rule within 48 hours of its publication, and the American Farm Bureau Federation joined with 11 other agricultural and business groups last week in a separate complaint.

"We anticipate many more lawsuits," CFBF environmental attorney Kari Fisher said. "Lawsuits are indicating that the rule violates the Clean Water Act, the U.S. Constitution and the Administrative Procedures Act, stating that the federal government is trying to usurp the states' primary responsibility for the management, protection and care of intrastate waters and lands."

CFBF, which has analyzed details of the almost 300-page rule, said it greatly expands the regulatory authority of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers by increasing the number of waters that would fall under the agencies' jurisdiction. The rule would ultimately require additional permits and increase areas that would be placed under restricted use, Fisher said.

The EPA and Army Corps have said that the purpose of the rule is to assist them in determining what streams, wetlands, ponds and ditches will be subject to regulation under the Clean Water Act, and will provide clarity about which waterways must be protected against pollution.

The legal action by AFBF and the other groups, filed in federal district court in Texas, says the new rule grants the agencies broad control over land use, far beyond what Congress authorized in the Clean Water Act. The lawsuit also says that the vagueness and over-breadth of the rule violate the U.S. Constitution.

According to the AFBF complaint, "the Agencies are determined to exert jurisdiction over a staggering range of dry land and water features—whether large or small, permanent, intermittent or ephemeral, flowing or stagnant, natural or manmade, interstate or intrastate." The "opaque and unwieldy" rule, the complaint says, "leaves the identification of jurisdictional waters so vague and uncertain that plaintiffs and their members cannot determine whether and when the most basic activities undertaken on their land will subject them to drastic criminal and civil penalties under the (Clean Water Act)."

Regarding whether the lawsuits could temporarily halt enforcement of the rule, Fisher said that without an injunction that includes a request for the regulation to be put on hold in the interim while the case is being decided, the regulation remains effective Aug. 28. The various lawsuits, she said, have been filed in different federal courts and it is expected that a judicial panel will look at the lawsuits to decide which courts will hear the cases.

Under the final rule, Fisher said, waters that would be regulated have been expanded to also include modified tributaries and adjacent waters; enumerated regional features with a "significant nexus," such as vernal pools; and waters in the 100-year floodplain or within a certain distance of a water of the U.S.

Agricultural groups and other opponents say the final rule is even broader than the earlier, proposed rule. For example, Fisher said, "The definition of tributary has been broadened to include landscape features that may not even be visible to the human eye, or that existed historically but are no longer present."

The proposed rule required "the presence of a bed and banks and ordinary high water mark, plus some flow that sometimes reaches a navigable water."

But the final rule, Fisher said, only requires the "presence of physical indicators of a bed and banks and ordinary high water mark." In addition, agencies will be able to use remote sensing or mapping and other desktop tools to establish the presence of a tributary.

Fisher said ditches are an example of constructed features that, in many instances, can meet the definition of a tributary under the final rule. Some ditches are excluded, however, "because the exclusions are tied to determining the existence of historic or current tributaries, so it may be difficult for landowners to know which ditches are excluded," she said.

The final rule treats "adjacent waters,"—including those that are not visible to a landowner—as automatically regulated and provides parameters for what is considered to be "neighboring" to determine what applies.

The final rule also includes a category of waters determined to have a "significant nexus" to a traditionally navigable water, interstate water or the territorial sea. Under the final rule, "significant nexus" is defined for the first time by regulation and is a catch-all category to determine jurisdiction, Fisher said.

As those affected by the rule learn how it might apply to their property once the rule takes effect in late August, CFBF and others are also focused on ongoing efforts in Congress to overturn the rule.

"Congress needs to act quickly, in a bipartisan way, to stop the administration from implementing this rule. If nothing is done, the future isn't looking so bright," Rolph said.

Farm Bureau supports S. 1140, the Federal Water Quality Protection Act, which would require the EPA to withdraw the rule and adhere to limiting principles that would ensure that any new proposal conforms to jurisdictional limits set by Congress and affirmed by the Supreme Court. In May, the House passed its version of the bill, although it did not receive the two-thirds vote that would have made it veto-proof. In addition, House and Senate appropriators have included language that would strike funding to implement the waters of the U.S. rule.

The final rule can be found at www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-06-29/pdf/2015-13435.pdf.

For more information, see the AFBF "Ditch the Rule" website at ditchtherule.fb.org/.

(Christine Souza is an assistant editor of Ag Alert. She may be contacted at csouza@cfbf.com.)

This article courtesy the California Farm Bureau Federation.

Monrovia Nursery uses Rain Birds to water most of their plants which cleanses while watering them. The nursery has a recycled water program. Nancy Vigran/Valley Voice

Savings

Continued from p. 7

water for disinfection and feed the water into one of two 4.5-acre-feet reservoirs on the property. There the amount of pH and fertilizer in the water is measured to assure proper levels for usage. "It's efficient to recycle water here," Kruger said. "It captures the nutrients and brings them back."

Eventually though, nitrates and sodium build up too high for the recycled water to be used again on nursery plantings, so Monrovia has a 170-acre adjacent farm where that water is used on crops such as feed corn or oat hay.

During regular, non-drought years, Monrovia would take fresh water from the river. But, with the drought it is using its wells to replenish the water supply, Kruger said.

Currently, the pumping stations run on electricity or diesel fuel. A lot of watering is done at night, and during particularly hot spells, the pumps run on diesel as to not pull on the power grid, he said.

Many of the plant houses have Rain Bird systems because it is just not feasible to put an emitter onto one gallon pots, he said. The Rain Birds also cleanse the plants washing dust off the leaves.

Monrovia is looking into solar as an alternative power source for the future and may begin to add it by the end of this year.

"Our goal is to make the facility as self-sufficient as we can," Kruger said.

The nursery also uses "beneficial insects" as much as it can rather than pesticides, he added. It also respects the native bee population and during pollination season, does any spraying at night as to not bother them.

"We seem to have a good population of them," he said.

As for drought-resistant plants, Monrovia has increased production of succulents, agaves, aloes and yuccas, somewhat. But, since only 30 percent of the Woodlake facility production goes to the California market, it still maintains its regular production which is often shipped to the Mid-West and Texas.

The Monrovia Woodlake nursery has 540 employees and posts $33 million in sales per year as a wholesale producer for independent nurseries and Lowe's Home Improvement stores.

New Melones Reservoir on the Stanislaus River held only 17 percent of its capacity—or about 26 percent of its average for the date—when this photo was taken, July 3. Dave Kranz/CFBF

Restrictions

Continued from p. 6

"California's drought has devastated communities throughout the Central Valley and now the consequences are extending throughout the country," said Rep. David Valadao, R-Hanford, who introduced the legislation.

HR 2898 is designed to modernize water policies in California and throughout the western U.S. and make water supplies more reliable. It's supported by the entire California Republican delegation, the chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee and the chairman of the Western Caucus.

Wenger said Farm Bureau supports efforts to give water managers more options for benefiting protected fish species while maximizing water supplies for human needs. He also expressed support for a provision in the bill that would expedite federal studies of California water storage projects.

"Federal policies must move from fish-first priorities to a balanced program that seeks new ways to meet the needs of both people and protected species," Wenger said.

"As our current drought proves, it's time to move water storage projects from the drawing board to the construction stage," he said. "Accelerating storage projects just makes sense in a time of uncertainty about long-term weather patterns. The more places we have to store rain and snow when it falls, the better we'll be able to withstand the inevitable dry times."

Wenger also encouraged the California congressional delegation to cooperate closely on water legislation.

"All of California suffers from the impacts of drought, and we hope our congressional representatives from both parties and all regions can work together to address the federal government's role in easing the drought's impacts," Wenger said. "This bill is a good starting point."

This article courtesy the California Farm Bureau Federation.

Viewpoint

Disc Golf: For The Good of the Park

Zachary Cardoza, John Lambert

Recently an article authored by a guest commentator was published that implies that disc golf has had a negative impact on Mooney Grove Park and the Kings River Nature Preserve. The author questions whether disc golf courses should be allowed at these parks. Despite the author's arguments against disc golf, her goal in writing the article is in line with the goals of the local disc golf community and The Real Mooney Grove Project (a conservation group in which the author is a member). The goal of conservation and rejuvenation of the park can be achieved with the help of the local disc golf community.

In the published article, the author references two reports, an environmental report and an ecological impact study. These reports address concerns of destruction of undergrowth plants because of high foot traffic, damage to the bark of the trees from discs, and soil erosion and compaction. Several of the concerns listed in the article are already being addressed at both Mooney Grove Park and the King River Nature Preserve by measures recommended by the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) and the authors of the referenced reports. Undergrowth is specific to forest ecosystems, so the destruction of undergrowth is not a concern for either park. Soil erosion and compaction are both concerns for these parks; however, the concrete tee pads greatly prevent the erosion that would otherwise result. The baskets (which are the targets) are moved regularly to positions up to 300 feet apart from each other, which prevents excessive foot traffic to any one area. Soil compaction is difficult to determine, especially when drought conditions can have a greater impact, but the lack of natural "foot paths" would indicate that no excessive erosion or compaction is occurring as a result of disc golf.

An additional concern addressed is the possible impact of flying discs striking trees. The article attached a photo of a metal disc, which leads one to believe that a flying metal disc caused damage to a tree. The pictured disc in the article is a four inch marker or trophy disc that is sold by Wright Life and is never thrown. The PDGA sets mandates on the size, weight, and material used to reduce damage to the environment and prevent injuries. They are made of polymer plastic or rubber, are flexible, and weigh no more than 180 grams (6.3 ounces). This is not to say that discs are incapable of producing marks, but the speed at which a 180 gram projectile would have to be traveling in order to produce significant damage to a mature tree is well in excess of the speeds obtainable by even world class athletes. Additionally, two park administrators were questioned about whether discs could have damaged the trees that had been removed from Mooney Grove Park. Both administrators stated that they knew of no damage on the trees.

The goal of the local disc golf community as well as The Real Mooney Grove Project is to preserve the natural oaks for which the park was originally sanctioned. The many trees at Mooney Grove and the Kings River Nature Preserve are what define the courses and draw in disc golf players from around the world. The disc golf community wants to preserve these trees and as a collective are upset when trees have to be removed. None of the members want to see the great oak trees destroyed. Fruit trees have been donated and planted in the park to replace some of the older trees that have fallen. The disc golf community recognizes that young trees with thin bark may be damaged by discs and plan on protecting these young trees by using stakes and nets to protect them until they are mature enough to withstand damage.

The real reason trees are falling and being removed from Mooney Grove Park is the effects of drought and disease. The park has a large nursery full of small trees prepared to be planted to repopulate areas of the park, but the park is in continually in need of funding to sustain these efforts. Local disc golf clubs are designed to raise funds to protect and develop the courses and to improve the beauty of the park by adding benches, signs, and trees. Local clubs contribute funds to the park weekly and draw hundreds of players from across the state into the park for tournaments held several times a year. The sport of disc golf is growing rapidly at both a local and national level. This creates the potential for more events, which in turn create more revenue for the park.

The disc golf course within Mooney Grove Park and the Kings River Nature Preserve serve the local community in many ways. The courses are utilized not only by disc golf clubs, but also by youth programs and church ministries. The removal of these courses would only harm these community activities and would not stop the inevitable removal of trees due to environmental conditions. The growing disc golf community would like to continue to utilize the existing disc golf courses and in turn support the conservation and rejuvenation efforts of Mooney Grove Park and the Kings River Nature Preserve.

For information about disc golf, please visit the PDGA site: http://www.pdga.com.

For information about the Tulare County Disc Golf Club, visit the club site: http://tcdgc.org.

I Was Not Always A Muslim

Andra Riddle Goddard

I was born a 'WASP', an evangelical Presbyterian, from the Bay Area. I embraced this identity all my life, into my 40s, spending most of my free time in church. At the same time, I was a politically liberal feminist. By the time we moved to France in 2005, I had grown away from 'organized religion', the constant judging of and sense of superiority over anyone not following the same path, the excessive flag-waving and proselytizing, made me uncomfortable. My core beliefs never changed, my faith in Almighty God and His Son Jesus, our Savior ; all I had learned reading and studying the Bible and church doctrine, prayers, creeds....all this was deep inside me. But once we moved and the link was broken, though we went to several churches here, I realized I no longer identified with 'church-goers'.

Upon our arrival in France, I was obliged to take several classes for immigrants, designed to facilitate our integration into French society. And though I had studied French for 8 years in my school days, I was still required to take French classes and pass an aptitude test, in order to have my papers. These classes were lively sessions with fellow students from all over the world, though I was always the only 'anglo'. I made friends with people from Chechnya, Mongolia, Morocco, Algeria, the Congo. Coming from the cultural diversity of San Francisco, I had not noticed how little of that I encountered here, until I spent time with my classmates. It was like being back home! And thanks to them, over the course of the next year and a half, my knowledge of the world expanded in ways I had never imagined.

Many of my classmates were from North Africa, people I could 'recognize' as Muslims, if I thought about it. But there was also a Muslim Chechnyan refugee, blonde and fairer skinned even than I. My first lesson in 'not assuming' things ! During our breaks, and over meals and visits to one another's homes, we all shared not only our own stories, but what we thought we knew of the others' homelands and cultures. Boy did most of us have it wrong ! And the thing we found out that bound us quickly was just how much we all had in common, from the things our mothers told us ('If your friends jump off a bridge will you do it too ?') our favorite stars and singers (those of us of a similar age) , and most importantly, our core values : family, honesty, education, and faith.

Given that several of us were from societies whose leaders taught us to be distrustful of the others, that we have nothing in common, could never get along, the other is 'out to get us', we seemed an interesting group. They loved introducing me as 'their American friend' and I loved knowing that I was as welcome in their homes as their compatriots. And as we got to know one another, the inevitable discussions of religion arose and my education continued.

In our churches, we learned that Muslims do not worship the same God, because a) He is called Allah ; and b) they worship Mohammed, not Jesus, so therefore it cannot be 'our' God. I had always been of an open and accepting nature, but I did not have any education in other religions, so I had believed what I was taught. Imagine my surprise to learn that a)Allah is simply God in Arabic, and Christians and Jews who speak Arabic say Allah (just as we say Dieu, or Dios). And b), Muslims do NOT worship Mohammed, they worship God alone, and no one else. We worship and adore the same, unique and Most Merciful God, Creator of the universe.

There was no lightning bolt, no voice calling out to me, but this one important discovery opened the gates and set me on a path which, nearly a decade later, I am still only beginning to discover. I never 'advertised' my Christian faith, nor do I as a Muslim. I do not wear hijab (the headscarf, or other loose covering garments) nor speak in Arabic. My faith is a personal, private and precious thing between me and my Creator. But with all the hateful acts and bad feelings and misconceptions about Islam and Muslims in recent years, I decided to share some of my experiences, as 'one of you', who has become 'one of them', to help people understand that we are not all so different after all.

I was not always a Muslim, but now I am. And yet I will always be that 'feminist Californian WASP'.

Response to July 2, 2015 Political Fix

Dave B

At one time the Valley Voice was full of facts. Now it is about opinions and agendas, The article in Politcal Fix, entitled GUN CNTROL IS AN OXYMORON, for example, states that 33,600 people are killed by guns in the U.S. each year. This article simply quotes what Gunpolicy.org writes as a fact. These numbers are skued to push an agenda that is driven by the left and is in no way acurate. It would be better reading if someone did some research on their own and didn't rely on the false numbers put out by this group just because it reflects a narrative that you agree with. Gun Laws are not put in place to stop crime, they are put in place to make someone feel good. They think they have solved a problem or saved a life. Fact, there are over 22,000 Gun Laws in place and they have not saved one life. That is a true statement do some research, and while your checking on that, do some checking on how many lives are saved by guns. Of course that will not sit well with the liberal view. One more example, look at Chicago, they have the strickest gun laws, and the highest deaths due to guns. Bad Guys don't follow the law, and yes gun free zones are a joke.

Dave B Second Amendment Supporter and tired of seeing the Constitution walked on !!!!!

The author readily agreed with you that there may, indeed, be 22,000 gun laws and that they, in fact, have not saved one life.--ed

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Columns & Letters

Send us your Letters to the Editor
3350 S. Fairway Street, Visalia, CA 932777
By email: editor@ourvalleyvoice.com

Comment at ourvalleyvoice.com or fb.me/ourvalleyvoice

"I think the city has acted unlawfully.
What we need to do is stop this construction we do not need an additional 450 people or however many sucking up more water that we don't have that also goes for all the other new construction where are they going to get the water to run these restaurants etc. if the city of Hanford is supposed to be cuttimg back on water to avoid a fine. Guess what the tax payers will have to pay for the 10k a month fine. This is not fair. Build on the south side stop cramming every thing on 12thand lacy."

— ***Cheryl nergren**, on **Hanford's Mussel Slough Mystery Persists***

"I was born and raised in Hanford. The changes in priorities are due to people who don't want to get involved. A little bit at a time master manipulator have convinced us that their ideas keeps up with the times. We don't take in the fact of the impacts on the area years down the road.We can still change things. It won't be over night. We will have to put in the work, like getting involved by staying informed. Our community is our responsibility."

— ***Donnie Burnett**, on **Hanford's Mussel Slough Mystery Persists***

"by the amount of things overlooked by the City of Hanford, its pretty obvious someone wanted to skip around what would be required in order to build… what i would want to know is…who are the investors that are involved in this project and what, if any relationship do they have with city business in Hanford."

— ***kelly benevedes**, on **Hanford's Mussel Slough Mystery Persists***

"Building this set has been one of the greatest challenges Jim McKernan (shop foremen), Richard Morrill, and I have ever faced. From sometime in December 2014 we have been involved in this and it will such a joy to watch the cast interact with it.
I cannot express the range of emotions that have swept over us during this labor of love. I am honored to be a part of working with some of the most talented artists in the county."

— ***Rick Parker**, on **TCOE Theatre Company's Peter Pan Opens July 17***

"I would like to see everyone who has connection with running this shelter charged with abuse for every animal they have killed or let die. I would also like them discharged immediately and replaced by honest caring individuals. This is sickening to be me . To treat any animal this way is sociopathic and it needs to stop . NOW"

— ***Debra Downey**, on **Guest Commentary on Animal Control***

"Just like "the wells have failed" which is not even properly worded, "wells" don't fail, it's either the pump or no water, so incorrect to have County "staff" calling around for bids Someone doesn't know what the heck their even talking about Having been in the real estate business 11 years and dealing with homes, on properties with wells, it takes someone with expertise to be able to even talk the talk, let alone get an accurate bid from "staff" who don't know jack about wells I'll bet the well drillers just love talking with "staff" and trying to figure out what the heck !!And if calling around for bids, what the big show about voting to NOT do exactly THAT Jeez Louise"

— ***Mary**, on **A Saga of Ignored Wells Effects Trees at Mooney Grove Park***

"a Grand Jury report from 2007 addressed the problem of the trees Not being properly watered and cared for Even made "recommendations from" experts, and was sent to the supervisors WHO IGNORED THE ISSUE OF THE TREES NOT BEING WATERED PROPERLY BACK THEN So don't go to blaming anything other than incompetant County Supervisor,it's Parks and Rec management, lazy and should be fired groundskeepers, and using MOONEY GROVE as their scapegoat for other projects Let's start putting the blame where blame is due It's time Mooney Grove be a higher priority"

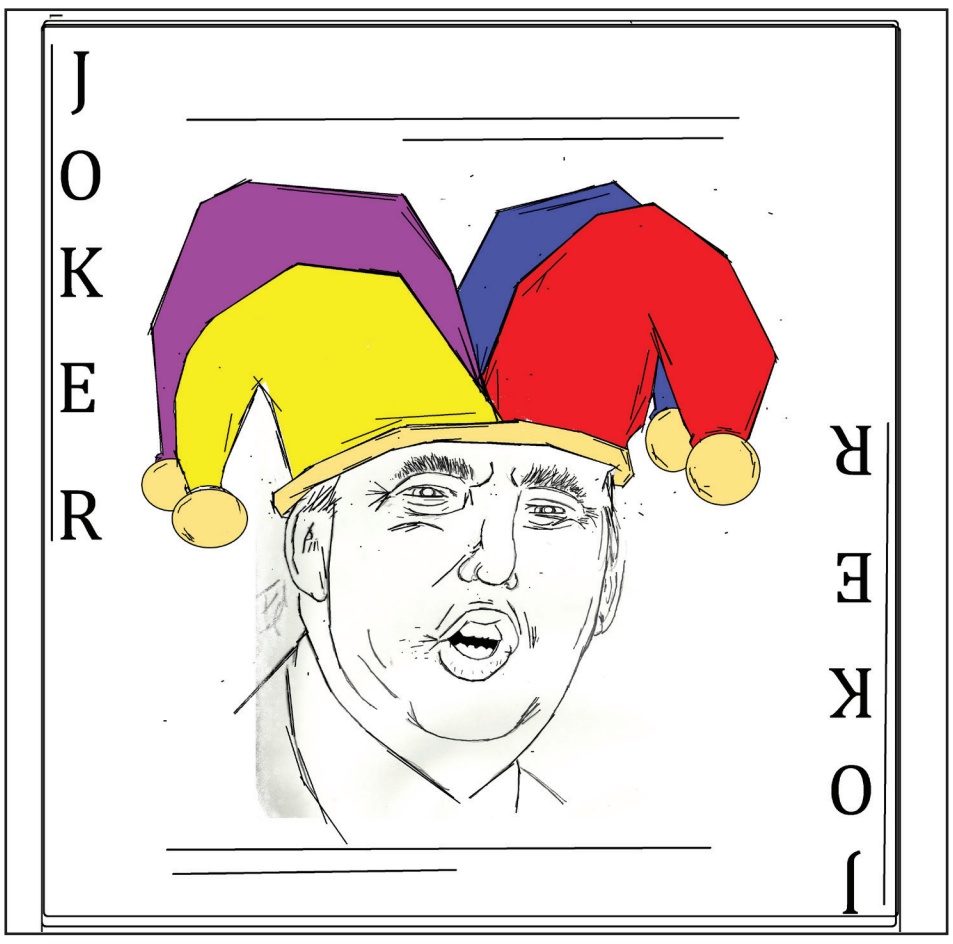
— ***Mary**, on **A Saga of Ignored Wells Effects Trees at Mooney Grove Park***

"Mr Disc Golf Are you too afraid to reveal your identity? And why do you feel Mooney Grove should be sacrificed for the sake of "disappointing disc golfers" the discs have been proven to be "damaging " not harmless, and dents in the trees MEANS TAKE THE DISC GOLF OUT OF THE PARK There are ALOT better ways to bring people to the park, and PLEASE, all that tons of money that disc golf brings to the park??? Really, since when? and again Better and more productive ways for the park to make money IS THIS NEIL PILEGARD ?? HA HA CAUGHT YA"

— ***Mary**, on **Disc Golf: Not Your Father's Frisbee Game***

Black Tie

Alex Oldenbourg



The Republican Trump card.

"I am a Christian and politically conservative. I LOVE reading your paper. My husband and I tell each other "this is the only way to know what's really going on in our part of the Valley". We enjoy the in-depth articles, even though we evidently don't fall into line politically with the editorial view point.
1) The God of the Old Testament wanted the love and gratitude of His people as well as the surrounding folks. Lots of things happened to try to get them on track, but they pretty much refused. He loved them anyway. (And still does)
2) Jesus' sacrifice was ghastly. But He still stands at the door and knocks. He never forces anyone to love
Him, although He always is there ready to offer His Love to all.
3) Conservative disregard for the poor is well known? What; we all laugh and throw stones at the homeless and don't contribute or volunteer at homeless shelters? Have you heard of the Rescue Missio or the Salvation Army? I hate to break it to you, but Christians of many stripes, are admonished by Jesus Himself to take care of the poor.
4) The Bible tells us we are stewards of this earth. How are we conservatives not fighting to maintain the balance between economic opportunity and conservation of natural resources? We enjoy nature and do not want to see it thrashed any more than you. Whether or not the drought is a matter of Divine Retribution or not, we all need to work together to conserve water, plan for the future, and, for the Christian, pray for God's merciful intervention to grant us some RAIN!!!

Please keep up the good work with your reporting, and give conservatives and Christians a modicum of respect!"

— ***Barbara Taylor**, on **Our Own Legerdemain***

"I was in front of so called "judge" saucedo. Being a younger white female I felt I was treated less of a person than the other defendants especially the hispanic males. I don't want to list my name because I'm currently working a program and I know the providers and probation think he's so special. I've seen the way he will talk to a degrade people he doesn't deserve to be a judge he's a joke"

— ***anonymous**, on **Judge Valeriano Saucedo's Last Hearing***

"This doesn't surprise me in the least with this so called judge. He walks around as if he's someone special or important with his cesar chavez mexican attitude. He thinks the world owes him something and has the in title meant attitude because he is of hispanic heritage. saucedo has brought SHAME to the Hispanic community and is an embarrassment to the judicial system. Hopefully the CJP will make an example of him by removing him from office so someone elses Wife, Daughter or Mother will not be preyed upon."

— ***C. Attorney**, on **Judge Valeriano Saucedo's Last Hearing***

"Public opinion can never be gauged by the number of persons speaking at a public meeting. You can be sure, however, that (a) those who are strongly *in favor* of an issue will always tend to show up in the greatest numbers, and
(b) if those who are *not* likely to support the same issue do not show up or otherwise express their views (e.g. to government or via the media) it doesn't by ANY means indicate that they have no opinion or are even aware that such an issue is being discussed."

— ***Renee Lapin**, on **Urban Farmers for Food Freedom Fights for Fowl***

Visalia Celebrates Mather Mountain Party of 1915

Staff Reports

In commemoration of the Mather Mountain Party of 1915, Sequoia Natural History Association and the Visalia Convention and Visitors Bureau will host a Centennial Celebration on July 14, 2015 from 5:00-7:00pm, to recognize and celebrate Visalia's connection to the creation of the National Park Service.

100 years ago, on July 14, 1915, a group of influential businessmen, that included local Visalia businessmen Ben Maddox and George Stewart, gathered for dinner at the Palace Hotel in downtown Visalia before embarking on their expedition though Sequoia and Yosemite National Parks. This journey through the Giant Sequoias and wilderness areas of the Sierra Nevada would lead to the creation of the National Park Service the following year.

The "invitation only" Centennial Celebration will be held from 5:00-7:00pm on the same day (July 14) and in the same place (Palace Hotel) as the event 100 years ago with many of the same people represented including the Mt Whitney Power Company (now SCE) of which Mr. Ben Maddox was General Manager. Appetizers and drinks will be followed by comments from Mark Tilchen of the Sequoia Natural History Association, local historian Terry Ommen, and NPS Superintendent Woody Smeck.

In a nod to the (very spicy) Mexican dinner served in 1915, the Lunch Box Restaurant will serve appetizers with a Mexican flare! Tours of the upstairs hotel (hardly touched in the past 80 years) will follow with an appearance by (Living Historian) Steven Mather!

For more information, please visit www.sequoiahistory.org

Sequoia Shuttle Offering Free Rides for Kids

Staff Reports

Summer is finally here and now is the time to explore one of the most beautiful national parks in the world – for FREE! Throughout the 2015 season, ending September 27, the Sequoia Shuttle is offering free rides to Sequoia National Park through a grant called Kids to Trees. This grant, inspired by Healthy Parks, Healthy People, is available to kids under the age of 18, and will also fund up to one adult chaperone for every three children in the group. These trips can be used for church groups, Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, summer school programs, and even families.

Kids to Trees offers youth groups local trips to the sequoias.

Qualifying groups must have a minimum of six kids and no more than 32 total people traveling. Each grant-funded trip will include free transportation to and from the park, free park entry, and free unlimited transportation inside the park, using any of the five available in-park shuttles that travel to all major attractions and trailheads. Upon arrival, each group will be greeted by a park ranger and given a brief introduction to the park.

Since the 2015 season began in May, over 700 kids have taken trips to the Sequoia's through the Kids to Trees grant and 650 seats remain available through the end of the season. One of the organizations taking advantage of this wonderful opportunity is Visalia Parenting Network. "Many of our cliental cannot afford to take family trips together due to lack of transportation and the cost of travel. For many, this is their first big trip outside the Visalia city limits," said Christina Osoria, program manager of Visalia Parenting Network.

"This is a great opportunity that allows us to interact with community organizations and families within Tulare County. Not only does this grant open the door for our youth to discover the beauty in their own backyard, but it's an exciting way for them to learn more about our surrounding community," said Monty Cox, transit manager for the City of Visalia.

For more information or to make a group reservation using the Kids to Trees grant, please call Jessica Blanchfield at (559) 454-9400 ext. 211.

About The Sequoia Shuttle

The 2015 Sequoia Shuttle season operates through September 27. The shuttle departs from various locations in Visalia, Exeter, and Three Rivers, multiple times a day, 7-days a week. General public tickets cost $15 round-trip and include the park entry fee and unlimited transportation inside the park. Each shuttle is wheelchair accessible and seats up to 16-passengers. Reservations are required in advance and can be made online at www.SequoiaShuttle.com or by phone by calling 877-Bus-Hike (877-287-4453).

Valley Voice
Valley Scene

The Helio Sequence to Play Cellar Door on July 18

São Paulo, Brazil-based Quarto Negro will grace the Cellar Door stage with their sophisticated electro-pop, opening for The Helio Sequence on Saturday, July 18, promptly at 7pm. This will be the last all-ages show.

For the past decade Sub Pop recording artists, The Helio Sequence, have made regular touring stops in Visalia, consequently building up a solid following. The Portland band's music is catchy and meticulously crafted. But it is the bombastic nature of the duo's live show that has built the band's career.

On their new album, simply titled, "The Helio Sequence", Benjamin Weikel and Brandon Summers have added to one of strongest discographies in the Northwest. For this sixth album, the duo wrote 26 songs in a month, the best of which—as voted by friends and family—ended up on the record. Expectedly, Weikel's unerring drum work and Summers' dreamlike vocals and guitar effects are in full bloom. More surprisingly, the record demonstrates a coolness and composure you wouldn't expect from an album that came together so quickly.

Standout tracks include the heaving, psych-tinged "Upward Mobility" and "Inconsequential Ties," which fuses Revolver-era Beatles with pristine garage rock. Tracks such as the hazy, majestic "Seven Hours" pull the heartstrings, while the concluding "Never Going Back" showcases Summers' folky leanings with a song that sounds like atmospheric Dylan. It blows the candle out on another fine effort from Portland's most reliable duo.

"Negotiations was a very long, introspective process," remembers Summers of the band's 2012 Sub Pop LP. "We shut ourselves off from the world and disappeared down the rabbit hole. That's how we tend to work, but we wanted to try something new, open and immediate."

In a sense, The Helio Sequence had spent their whole career preparing for this record. They'd sunk entire recording advances into studio purchases, collaborating with local engineers to build custom gear and a space where they could blend high fidelity with kaleidoscopic sound. In 2013, the pair took on their first full-scale production project, the Brazilian rock band Quarto Negro, after the group inquired about their space and availability through Facebook. As producers, they'd remixed Shabazz Palaces, picked up mixing sessions with Portland acts and earned representation from

Brandon Summers, left, and Benjamin Weikel are The Helio Sequence.

Global Positioning Services. Summers and Weikel discovered just how adaptable and powerful their studio could be.

In May of 2014, inspired by the "20-Song Game", they began arriving each morning in their Portland space—housed in the cafeteria and break room of an old warehouse— with the mission of making as much music as possible in one month. They began exploring and capturing, recording guitar riffs and keyboard loops, drum patterns and bass lines. One piece documented, they quickly advanced to the next idea.

Summers and Weikel didn't discuss what they were making or the reference points that informed it, though such discussions had once been central to The Helio Sequence's more self-conscious process. They just played. Created. In time, they returned to each fragment, broadcasting it over the studio PA, jamming and recording the results. Mistakes

HELIO SEQUENCE continued on **19 »**

Brett Clevenger, Ayla Draper, Ila Benedict, Margie Quintel, Susan Mathews, Marla Alberstein, Elaine Wood, Ronnette Torrance, Odran Gilheany.

Broads of Broadway

Nancy Holley

From a seed that was veteran actor/director Sharon DeCoux's concept has grown the musical revue *Broads of Broadway* that ushers in the Visalia Players 2015-16 season at the Ice House Theatre.

Broads of Broadway includes more than 70 songs from musicals as early as the 1930's with a libretto ably written by director Leeni Mitchell.

"This is the hardest thing I have ever done," she said. "Writing a libretto that holds a show together is very challenging."

Being original has allowed the vocalists to participate in developing the show's content and shaping its focus. The challenge has been what to include and what to discard.

Ayla Draper has adroitly created thematic medleys allowing the maximum number of tunes.

With regard to the musical sets, Margie Quintel noted "I'm singing in trios, and I love it because I love harmony."

Elaine Wood commented, "My favorite part of the show is the Battle of the Sexes theme."

In addition to arranging the music, Draper is one of the "Broads." She is participating in "Cell Block Tango" from *Chicago,* which was one of her most difficult musical tasks.

"Arranging the song to include only 4 of the 6 characters was a real challenge," she said.

Ice House veterans Marla Alberstein and Susan Mathews believe that audiences will be thoroughly entertained.

Mathews pointed out, "The ensemble is a diverse group of women; the songs include something for everyone; and there's plenty of humor."

Alberstein admitted, "I'm the oldest broad and I have no problem with that. I want to keep belting those songs out until I die. I was born a ham. I love to entertain."

BROADS continued on **24 »**

Symphony Brass Quintet Performs July 20

Staff Reports

The Porterville College Music Department would like to invite the public out to a special, FREE concert featuring the Symphony Brass Quintet at 7 p.m. July 20 in room CA-2 at Porterville College.

The Symphony Brass Quintet was started in 2006 by Eric Farrenkopf and Norm Campbell as a way to bring chamber music as interpreted by brass instruments to Tulare County and its surrounding area.

While the quintet has featured a wide number of valley musicians, the core members are all members of the Tulare County Symphony Orchestra and the Tule British Brass Band of Tulare. The concert is part of a free summer music series being offered at PC.

"PC hosts a number of performances each semester and during the summer for three reasons: we provide performances for our music students to attend for class credit, we give these performances to the community as a cultural opportunity and we give the performers an opportunity to do what they love to do...play music," said David Hensley, Professor of Music at the college. He quickly added, "Whenever we take-up a free-will donation at one of our performances, this is to support the musicians, not the music department."

These players have delighted audiences for the past several years, playing a combination of new and standard selections arranged for brass instruments. The Quintet has provided music for a wide variety of events including: weddings, dinner parties, retirements, memorials, Music on Main Street-Visalia, 1st Arts Visalia and other chamber music concerts.

"It is very unusual to find the top players in the brass section of any orchestra who also play well together as a quintet and who enjoy playing recitals in their free time (summer)," Hensley said. "We sure are lucky to have these folks come and play for us. Not only is their music unique and interesting, it's always a lot of fun to hear their banter and to see them play so well together."

Parking restrictions are waived for the event. Admission is free, but a goodwill offering will be accepted at the event. Porterville College is located at 100 East College Avenue in Porterville. For additional information, please call the PC music office at 559-791-2255.

Education

New Principals Lead VUSD High Schools

Craig Wheaton, Superintendent

The principal of a Visalia high school is an important leader in our community. We have concluded a busy recruitment and hiring season, and Visalia Unified welcomes four brand new high school principals to its ranks for the start of the school year. In addition, one principal will take on the challenge of a different school this next year.

Principal – El Diamante High School

Angela Sanchez was selected as the principal of El Diamante High School. She will fill the position vacated by Mike Waters, who retired at the end of the school year.

Since 2010, Sanchez has served as the principal of Green Acres Middle School. Prior to Green Acres, she worked at Redwood High School, where she held various assistant principal positions in the areas of curriculum and instruction, student services, assessment, facilities and attendance for 16 years.

Sanchez was a Spanish teacher at Redwood High School for eight years and the Foreign Language Department chair for three of those years.

Principal – Golden West High School

José Fregoso was selected as the principal for Golden West High School. Fregoso recently served six years as the principal of Weston Ranch High School in Stockton.

Prior to his principal position, he served for four years as the assistant principal of Lindhurst High School in Olivehurst, CA, and for three years as the prevention and intervention specialist at Herman Leimbach Elementary School in Sacramento. He also worked as a counselor for middle school students in Sacramento. Fregoso and his family are excited to make Visalia their home.

Principal – Mt. Whitney High School

Rick Hamilton will begin his new assignment as principal of Mount Whitney High School after serving as the Golden West principal for three years.

Current principal Jeff Hohne has moved to a District Office position.

Principal – Redwood High School

Matt Shin was most recently the principal of Divisadero Middle School and will now begin his new assignment as principal of Redwood High School. Shin is looking forward to becoming a Redwood Ranger.

Principal – Visalia Charter Independent Study School

Michele Reid was selected as the principal for VCIS. Reid currently serves as the assistant principal for VCIS, a position she has held for two years.

Prior to serving as the assistant principal, she was the learning director for four years at VCIS and was an elementary school teacher for seven years in Farmersville Unified School District.

A change in the principal offers an exciting opportunity for students, staff and members of each school community; and we welcome each of these new faces to our schools.

RAP & Tiny Tots Now Registering

Registration for the Recreation Afterschool Program (RAP) and Tiny Tots is now underway in Porterville. RAP is an afterschool program offered in the Burton School District for K–6th grades.

RAP is designed to offer help with homework, teach arts and crafts, lead indoor and outdoor games and provide a fun and safe place to be. It operates Monday-Friday, concurrent with school calendar days.

Tiny Tots is a specialized program for children ages 3-5 years old. This pre-school program takes place weekdays at the Heritage Center, from 9 am – 12 pm, throughout the school year. The program features academic instruction called "Classroom Magic." All learning is taught through arts and crafts, music, sharing and playing.

To enroll your child in either of these programs go by the Heritage Center, 256 E. Orange Ave., Porterville.

Agriculture Career Camp Coming to West Hills College Coalinga Farm of the Future

Middle school students from Avenal and Kettleman City will soon have the opportunity to learn about a wide variety of agricultural careers at the West Hills College Coalinga Farm of the Future as part of a camp sponsored by Wonderful Education, formally known as Paramount Education Program, part of the Wonderful Company.

The free agriculture career camp will run from Sunday, July 19 to Friday, July 24 and will allow 50 7th to 8th grade students to explore four different career tracks, including agriculture production and manufacturing, design and fabrication, equipment operation and geospatial agriculture.

Each career track will also expose students to a specific job such as agriculture economist, pest control advisor, irrigation consultant and certified crop advisor.

"We're really trying to excite and motivate the next generation of students to understand what ag is in the modern era and we're also trying to achieve one of the missions of the Farm of the Future: to create an educated, well trained workforce for our region," said Clint Cowden, Farm of the Future director. "That starts now. If we don't give them this training, they might not otherwise have selected agriculture as a career path."

The students, who were selected from the Reef-Sunset United School District, will be able to engage in an array of hands-on activities as they cycle through the four career tracks. They will learn how to utilize GPS to create maps, how to put together an irrigation schedule, how to analyze soil fertility, collect and identify insects, and work with heavy equipment.

Students will also learn about educational planning and choosing the right school or program for the career they want to pursue. Many of the students involved are part of a program at Avenal High School which will allow them to graduate from West Hills College Coalinga with an associate's degree at the same time as they graduate from high school.

"They're getting a 10-year plan for their future from this," Cowden said. "They're going to start out with a career they want and get to know what university offers that or if they can go directly into the workforce."

West Hills College Lemoore Paramedic Program Seeking Students

West Hills College Lemoore's Paramedic Program is now accepting applications for new students for its August, 2015 start date.

The yearlong program offers students the opportunity to earn an Associate of Science Degree or a certificate of completion.

To qualify for the program, students must have pre-requisite classes in anatomy, physiology and English and must also have their EMT1 state issued license or National EMT license.

An application for the program is available in the Health Careers office on the WHCL campus. The application deadline is Friday, Aug. 7 by 3 pm.

For more information, call 559-925-3000 or visit http://www.westhillscollege.com/lemoore/academics/health/paramedic.asp.

"To believe yourself brave is to be brave; it is the one only essential thing." - Mark Twain

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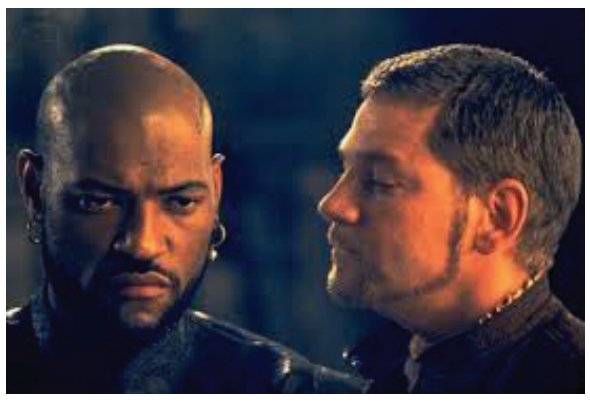
Othello: A Tragedy of Jealousy

Joseph R. Teller

This is the second of a series of four articles on Shakespeare's major tragedies

Composed about 1604, Shakespeare's *The Tragedy of Othello, the Moor of Venice* was adapted from a 1565 Italian story about a jealous sea captain who murders his wife. Characteristically, Shakespeare takes his source and creates something original and daring—a tragedy of a racial outsider (a dark-skinned "moor" who serves as Venice's military general) who marries a white Venetian woman but who eventually murders her because he becomes convinced by his trusted "ensign," Iago, that she has been unfaithful.



Lawrence Fishburne as Othello and Kenneth Branagh as Iago.

As the play opens, Iago and his lackey, Roderigo, warn the Venetian Senator Brabantio that his daughter Desdemona has eloped with the "old black ram," Othello. Iago claims to hate "the moor" because he passed Iago over for a promotion and because he suspects that Othello has slept with his wife. Angry at the elopement, Brabantio calls Othello before the Venetian senate for punishment.

Othello and Desdemona protest their love before the senate. The Duke and senators are sympathetic to the marriage, and because the Venetian state is under attack from the Ottoman Turks, they order Othello to sail to Cypress to protect their garrison. Othello takes Desdemona with him. Iago is determined, however, to destroy Othello, and realizes that the gullible Othello "will as tenderly be led by th'nose / As asses are." Iago plans to convince Othello that Desdemona has been chronically unfaithful to him.

Once the scene shifts to Cypress, Othello's tragedy accelerates to its horrifying conclusion. Iago convinces Othello that Desdemona, "with Cassio hath the act of shame / A thousand times committed," and that the only recourse to this dishonor is to, "Strangle her in her bed, even the bed she hath contaminated."

Othello, convinced that he should never have married, and chronically insecure of his place as a black man among white Venice, falls victim to his jealousy, "the green-eyed monster, which doth mock / The meat it feeds on." In the final scene, Othello strangles Desdemona to death on their wedding bed. As Othello is arrested, the truth comes out, and Othello, realizing that he has been duped, that he has "loved not wisely, but too well," commits suicide over Desdemona's body, and falls on the bed next to her.

Iago, under arrest for his crime, refuses to reveal his true motives, and his last words are terrifyingly enigmatic: "What you know, you know. / From this time forth I never will speak word."

Why does Iago do this?

His stated motives are never convincing, which is why Coleridge called Iago "a motiveless malignity." Iago disturbs precisely because his actions are disproportionate to his supposed motives. And why does Othello believe him so completely? An answer might lie in the play's racial dynamics: Othello is an outsider among Venetians and doubts his understanding of those around him, preferring instead the clear-cut values of the battlefield. Sexual dynamics also play a role: in trusting soldierly relationships over his wife, Othello trusts the wrong person, and seals his fate.

The play speaks to contemporary concerns on a number of levels. There are the social questions: how do power structures work to include or exclude outsiders? What are the personal and social costs of racial prejudice? There are the intimate relational questions: what does it mean to trust one's spouse? What constitutes "evidence" of a spouse's faithfulness? Is trusting one's spouse always a leap of faith? Then there are the existential questions: what motivates someone to commit evil? Why do we seek to destroy and humiliate others? Why are we prone to jealousy? Why should we trust anyone in a world that seems so committed to suspicion, envy, and selfishness?

CVWN to Celebrate "Christmas in July"

Central Valley W.O.M.E.N'S Network will celebrate its 5th anniversary at "Christmas in July" from 10 am-4 pm on Saturday July 18 at the Visalia Convention Center. CVWN is a group of home-based businesswomen who host two events per year, Christmas in July and the Holiday Marketplace Boutique, to raise money for their scholarship fund and Relay for Life in Tulare.

There will be more than 70 booths to shop from and free refreshments starting at 12:00 pm. The tricky tray and Galaxy Tab4 raffle drawing will take place at 3 pm.

Tickets are $1 and can be purchased from any CVWN member or at the door. Entrance is $2. We offer "FREE" entrance to current military and their immediate family. If you are interested in being a vendor please email cvwn@att.net

Mia Von Bargen is this year's CVWN scholarship winner. Mia graduated from Hanford West High School in June with a better than 3.8 GPA. Ranking in the top 20 of her senior class Mia will be attending Chico State as a freshman this fall. She will be majoring in Civil Engineering with a secondary in Architecture. Her interest in "construction" began as a young child playing with building blocks and with time grew to admire the "complexity of structures around the world." The CVWN wishes Mia all the best.

CVWN will give free admission to anyone who clips this article out and presents it at the door.

Helio Sequence

Continued from p. 18

didn't matter, and second chances didn't exist. After two weeks, Summers and Weikel began cutting those loose takes into rough shapes, steadily building songs from their cavalier sketches.

Although making records can be a laborious and tedious process, Summers delights in the memory of making this one.

"We were coming to the studio on these sunny mornings everyday with an open mind," Summers shares. "We said, 'I'm just going to do what feels good in the moment."

"We worked so quickly that there was a running optimism," he continues. "There's this sense of striving for perfection where you can actually take momentum away. But we wanted this record to be momentum in and of itself."

When June arrived, the duo gathered their 26 finished songs and sent them to 31 friends, fans and family members. They asked each person to rank their 10 favorite tracks. By summer's end, they had arrived at the brisk 10 tracks that shape the breathless and magnetic The Helio Sequence—a record so named because it's a kind of clean restart for the longtime pair, a revamp of their process and a revitalization of their results.

The Helio Sequence is a renewed push forward for the band: From the cool wallop of "Deuces," where guitars snarl and harmonies soar, to the stuttering anxiety of "Upward Mobility", where pianos pound and drums race, this collection depends upon an effortless kinetic energy. Lyrically, "Stoic Resemblance" is a study of existential anxiety, but musically, it's a beguiling burst of pop, Summers' vocals rising over and sliding off of Weikel's big, irrepressible beat. The bittersweet "Leave or Be Yours" evokes the easy twinkle of romance and the smoldering sadness of losing it. Crisscrossing vocals and cross-talking guitars and drums map a broad swirl of emotions.

With its easy acoustic jangle, "Inconsequential Ties" might be one of the most surprising, light moments within the bombastic Helio Sequence catalog. But considered within the band's history, it points to the pop that's bound Summers and Weikel for so long. Indeed, there's a delightful candor to The Helio Sequence, an openness that is a rare and special feat for a band about to enter its third decade.

"It's less about curating yourself or trying to put yourself across how you want to be perceived," says Summers. "It's about having a conversation with people and giving them something that's who you are."

Tickets for the show are $10 in advance or $12 at the door. Visit Ticketweb.com.

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Calendar

1st and 3rd Thursdays: Central Valley Tea Party Meetings, 6pm
819 West Visalia Road, Farmersville.

June 8 through August: Oil Paintings by Betty Berk
This is a one-woman exhibit at Cafe 225. There will be a reception at 1pm on Sunday, June 14.

July 13-31: Sound N Vision Youth Music & Art Exploration, 10am-12:30pm
At the Boys & Girls Club in Visalia: **Drum Rhythms of the World:** This class will utilize conga drums to teach traditional drum rhythms used around the world. Class dates: JULY 13, 15, 17, 20, 22, 23, 27, 29, 31 (10:00-11:00am) Drums will be provided. (ages 8-17) instructor: Carlos Rodriguez (professional musician and instructor.) **Electric Guitar Jam Basics:** This class teaches basic electric guitar and popular riffs. Students will be encouraged to improvise on the instrument and play together. Class dates: JULY 13, 15, 17, 20, 22, 23, 27, 29, 31 (11:30-12:30pm) Instruments and amps will be provided. (ages 8-17) instructor: Carlos Rodriguez (professional musician and instructor.)

Every Tuesday through July 28: Sierra View Farmers Market, 9am–Noon
Join us at Sierra View Medical Center East Parking Lot, 465 W. Putnam Ave. in Porterville, for the NEW Sierra View Farmers Market, in partnership with the Visalia Farmer's Market! Come enjoy fresh local produce harvested for the summer season. Shoppers can buy local tomatoes, cucumber, zucchini, stone fruit, berries, citrus, plant starts, olives, honey, grass fed beef and more! The first 50 people to visit the Sierra View Medical Center Booth will receive Healthy Bucks to spend at the Market! Plus, you can receive a $10 Market Match when using Cal Fresh EBT Benefits! In addition, the Tulare Kings Area Agency on Aging will be joining us on June 9 and will be distributing $20 gift certificates for the farmers market to seniors who qualify. Local producers or non-profits interested in joining the Sierra View Farmers Market can apply at www.visaliafarmersmarket.com

Every Tuesday in July: How to Become a Teacher, 5-6pm
The Central Valley is currently experiencing a severe teacher shortage. Brandman University has been working hard to help with this issue by offering free teacher job fairs, free substitute teacher job fairs and so on. Currently the Hanford campus of Brandman University, located at 325 Mall Dr. in Hanford, is offering special Information sessions during the month of July.

Through October 28: Free Fly Casting Instruction, 6-7pm
Kaweah Fly Fishers are offering fly casting lessons at Del Lago Park in Tulare every Wednesday evening until October 28. Rods and reels will be supplied or you may bring your own.

Throughout July: Independence from Hunger
July is HUNGER AWARENESS MONTH...Shop at the Visalia Grocery Outlet every day in July to provide food for our community! Items VRM needs will be highlighted in the aisles, or purchase a pre-made bag and drop it in the donation bin in the store! The Grocery Outlet is located at 2323 S Mooney Blvd. in Visalia. Want to get more involved? Man a VRM table at the GO on a Saturday or Sunday in July (3 hour shifts available). You and family or friends can donate your time and help spread the word about hunger awareness.

JULY

July 16-August 22: Tulare Senior Center Art Show
The Heritage Art Gallery at the Tulare Historical Museum is happy to announce its first ever art exhibition by the artists of the Tulare Senior Community Center. "Art is Ageless" Masterpieces by Tulare Senior Center Artists will run from July 16-August 22. Twenty artists will be featured in the show.

July 18: 16th Annual Woodlake Car and Bike Show, from 7am
The 16th Annual Car and Bike Show will take place in the city's Miller-Brown Park. Entries start rolling in at 7am. Awards scheduled for 2pm.

July 18: Helio Sequence at the Cellar Door, 7pm
São Paulo, Brazil-based Quarto Negro will grace the Cellar Door stage with their sophisticated electro-pop, opening for The Helio Sequence on Saturday, July 18, promptly at 7pm. This will be the last all-ages show.

July 18: Christmas in July, 10am-4pm
In the Visalia Convention Center's Charter Oak Ballroom. Entrance Tickets $2. Tricky Tray Tickets $1.Tickets can be purchased at the door. Current military and immediate family FREE. Free refreshments. Tricky Tray drawings at 3pm. Need not be present to win.

July 18: Bowling for PADS, 12-3pm
At AMF Visalia Lanes, 1740 West Caldwell in Visalia. Donation is $125 for a five-person team. All ages are allowed. All proceeds go to Porterville Adult Day Services.

July 19: 7th Annual Food Fight AGAINST Hunger, 3-6pm
Join the California Restaurant Association as they host the 7th Annual Food Fight AGAINST Hunger! All proceeds benefit the Visalia Rescue Mission. PRIZES! DELICIOUS food from local restaurants! LIVE MUSIC! COOKING DEMO by The Vintage Press' David Vartanian! AMATEUR CHEFS COMPETING FOR TOP HONORS in the cooking competitions! Must be 21 to attend. Visit www.vrmhope.org/events for ticket information.

July 20: Symphony Brass Quintet at Porterville College, 7pm
The Porterville College Music Department would like to invite the public out to a special, FREE concert featuring the Symphony Brass Quintet at 7pm, July 20 in room CA-2 at Porterville College.

July 21: "Social Media Marketing," 5:30- 6:30pm
J.E.C. Offering Free Summer Workshops Porterville- The Porterville College Job, Entrepreneur, and Career (J.E.C.) Center invites the public to attend their free, career development workshops being held at Porterville College throughout the summer. At Porterville College, 100 East College Avenue in Porterville, room LRC513. Learn how to use social media to promote your large or small business; what platforms should you use and how.

July 23: "CTE (Career and Technical Education) Career Readiness," 2:30-3:30pm
J.E.C. Offering Free Summer Workshops Porterville- The Porterville College Job, Entrepreneur, and Career (J.E.C.) Center invites the public to attend their free, career development workshops being held at Porterville College throughout the summer. At Porterville College, 100 East College Avenue in Porterville, room LRC513. The J.E.C. Center at Porterville College provides personalized services and programs. Whether you need help choosing major, exploring careers, starting your own business, or developing a resume, J.E.C. staff is here to help you make the necessary preparations to achieve your goals and to ensure a successful transition from academic life to the working world.

July 22: Labor Law Compliance Series, 7-10am.
The Visalia Chamber of Commerce, in cooperation with Pacific Employers, will present the state-mandated Supervisors' Sexual Harassment Prevention Training Seminar & Workshop at the Lamp Liter Inn. Registration & Breakfast 7:30-8 am; Seminar 8-10am. Reservations required. For more information call the Chamber, 734-5876.

July 24: Concert in Springville Park, 7-9pm
The Beach Band

July 24: Hand Analysis Workshop
Kay Packard will host a 2-hour workshop at the Cosmic Corral in Hanford. With a new compass in hand, everyone will discover fresh perspective, possibilities and prosperity. Come learn about the four different life paths (Service, Love, Peace and Wisdom) and which one you're on based on your fingerprint code so that you can advance on your pathway with greater clarity and purpose.

July 24: Visalia Music School Presents The School of Pop, Rock, and Blues performing at Roller Towne, 7-9pm

July 24-27: Wilderness Trip: Alta Peak.
Location: Lodgepole. Duration: 4 days. To register, call the Sequoia Field Institute at 559-565-4251.

July 25: Lifestyle Center Re-Grand Opening
The Lifestyle Center is hosting an event to celebrate its re-grand opening and unveil a new workout area and an expanded daycare center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 25, at 5105 W. Cypress Ave., Visalia. Tours, enter to win prizes, opportunity drawings, take advantage of lowest enrollment offer of the year and more. Information: 624-3400.

Central Valley Hon

This event is to raise funds to help defer t
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CENTRAL VALLEY

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to visit memorials dedicated to their import
provided this tour-of-honor experience as a
service and sacrifice to our country.

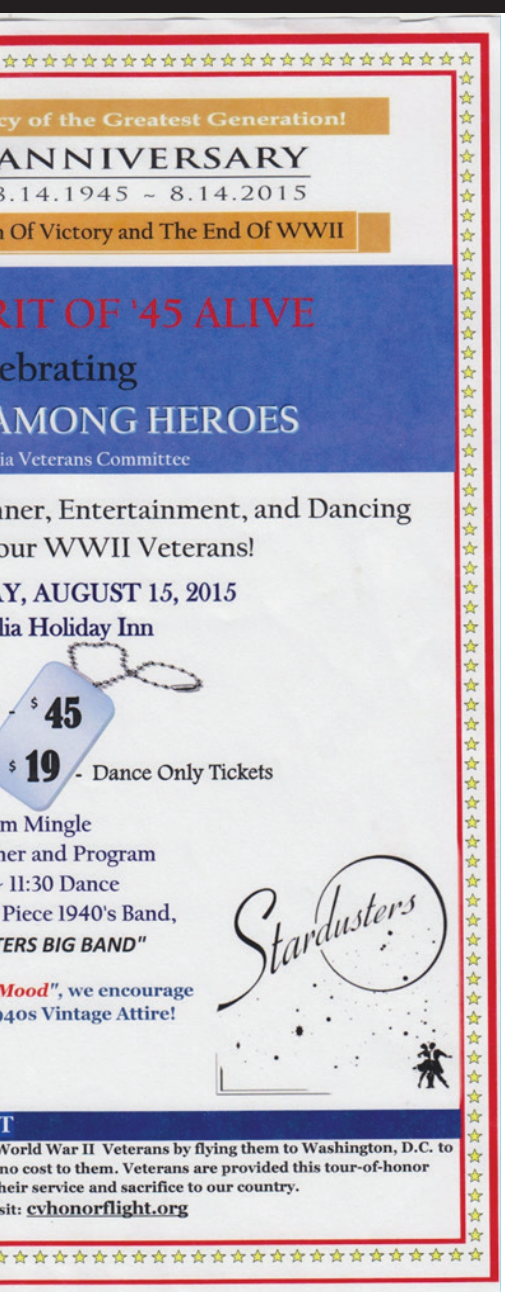
The event begins at 5:00pm. For tickets, cal

Guest Speakers: Paul Loeffler, Voice of the B
Nominee.

For more information, contact Carl Switzer

July 25: 2nd Annual Peter Murphy Classic
King of the West 410, Sprint Car Series, USAC West Coast 360 Sprints and Western RaceSaver Sprints will be held at Thunderbowl Raceway at Tulare Fairgrounds. For information, visit www.thunderbowlraceway.com.

July 25-27: Dark Sky Festival
Throughout Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Programs and activities include: Meet an Astronaut, Constellation Tours, Telescope Viewing, Special Film Viewing, Guest Speakers, Photography, Storytelling, Model Rocket Building, Home Lighting Demos and more. For more information, visit www.sequoiahis-



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July 27: Pizza with a Purpose, 5-9pm
Enjoy a great meal & support a great cause! Every #lastmonday of the month in 2015. The Planing Mill will donate a portion of the evening's revenue to the VRM!

July 29: Miss Exeter Informational Meeting, 5:30pm
Do you know a young lady who is interested in participating in the 2015 Miss Exeter Scholarship Program, but has questions about what that entails? Invite her and her parents to attend the Information Only" meeting on Wed., July 29th at 5:30pm at the Chamber..

July 29: Concert in the Park 2015, 7:30-9pm
Bring chairs and blankets--but no alcohol--to Tulare Zumwalt Park to hear Richard Frost, Marco Rodriguez & Billy's Country music on the stage of the John Philip Souza Pavilion. FREE! For more information, please call the Tulare Parks and Recreation Department.

July 30: KJUG Free Summer Concert--"Brothers Osborne," 7pm
KJUG Free Summer Concert in Exeter City Park at 7 pm on Wednesday, July 15th featuring "Brothers Osborne". Chamber member sponsors are Monarch Ford, Culligan Water Conditioning & the City of Exeter. For more information visit www.KJUG.com.

July 31: Devon Mathis Town Hall Meeting, 5:30
Join Devon Mathis at his next town hall in Visalia on July 31st at 5:30 at the Visalia Veterans Memorial Building 609 W. Center Avenue.

July 31: Concert in the Park 2015, 7pm
Listen to Conjunto Sagrado play Hanford Civic Park / Historic Courthouse Stage, 400 N. Douty St. in Hanford. This is a free event. For more information, contact the Hanford Parks and Recreation Department at 585-2525.

July 31: Broads of Broadway
Broads of Broadway runs for three weekends at the Ice House Theater at Race and Santa Fe in Visalia. Evening performances are at 7:30 pm on Fridays and Saturdays, July 31, and August 1, 7, 8, 14, and 15 and matinees are at 2 pm on Sundays, August 2, 9, and 16.

July 31 - September 20: From the Fire
From the Fire presents an exhibition of work by members of the San Joaquin Clay and Glass Association at the Marcellus Gallery in the Kings Art Center with opening reception on Friday, July 31 from 5:30-7:30pm. The exhibition runs from Saturday, Aug. 1-Wednesday, Sept. 20.

AUGUST

August 1-2: TICA International Cat Show Southwest Regional Awards Show, 7am-3pm
The 2015 SW Regional Awards Cat Show will be held, Saturday and Sunday, August 1 and 2 at the Holiday Inn in Visalia. The International Cat Association™ (TICA™) is the world's largest genetic registry of pedigreed cats and household pet cats and kittens, with 63 breeds of cats in competition each day for the coveted Best in Show.

August 7: The 27th Annual Tommy Elliott Memorial Golf Classic, 7am-3pm
Come join us for a day of golf, goodies, and giving during the 27th Annual Tommy Elliott Memorial Golf Classic on Friday, August 7, 2015 at the Visalia Country Club. Proceeds will go to funding Delivering Our Future project which will create a state-of-the art birthing center at the Kaweah Delta Medical Center. Registration 9am. Shotgun start 2:30pm. Awards Ceremony, Silent Auction, BBQ. $175.00 per golfer Sponsorships available. For more information call Deborah Volosin Kaweah Delta Hospital Foundation (559) 624-2359.

August 7: Celebrant Singers 38th Anniversary Homecoming Concert, 7pm
An inspirational night at LJ Williams Theater hearing from Celebrants who've traveled the globe, sharing God's love where His light is dim and His voice is heard small. All seats are FREE and a love offering will be taken. Based in Visalia, the Celebrants come home only once a year to share and celebrate with their friends and partners…their family. After outreaches in Malta and Guatemala, they bring fresh reports of God's faithfulness and the results of sharing Christ's love with thousands throughout the world. THREE TEAMS – 30 singers and a 40 piece orchestra – are together for a spectacular musical celebration!

August 7: Concert in Springville Park, 7-9pm
Brad Wilson

August 8, 9,13, 15: Shakespeare in the Plaza, 8pm
It's Shakespeare time again in Lindsay, CA. This summer's Shakespeare in the Plaza comedy is Taming of the Shrew. This is a funny play about the ultimate battle of the sexes. The play is presented outdoors at Sweet Brier Plaza stage, located on Sweet Brier Street in the heart of downtown Lindsay. Admission is free. For more information, call 284 2223. Show dates are August 8, 9, 13, and 15 at dusk (about 8:00 PM).

August 8: Evening of the Arts, 6-8pm
The annual Evening of the Arts exhibit features both two and three-dimensional art by children (5-12yrs of age) in the summer art classes in the Banister Studio Gallery at the Kings Art Center. The exhibit opens on Saturday Aug. 8, from 6-8pm with ice cream and treats for the young artists and all their fans. The event is open to the public. The exhibition runs Saturday, Aug. 8-Wednesday, Sept. 20. Regular gallery hours are Wednesday through Friday from 11am-4pm and Saturday through Sunday 12-3pm. Admission is free and tours are offered by appointment. The Kings Art Center is located at 605 N. Douty St. For more information, call (559) 584-1065.

August 8: "Just Walk" With a Doc, 8-9am
The Healthy Visalia Committee working in partnership with Kaweah Delta Health Care District, Family HealthCare Network, Tulare County Medical Society and the Visalia Parks and Recreation Dept. continues its 2015 Visalia's "Just Walk" With a Doc walking program. The walks will take place at Blain Park, 3101 S. Court St., in Visalia.

August 14: Concert in the Park 2015, 7pm
Listen to PSYCHE 5 play Hanford Civic Park / Historic Courthouse Stage, 400 N. Douty St. in Hanford. This is a free event. For more information, contact the Hanford Parks and Recreation Department at 585-2525.

August 15: Fiesta Mexicana 2015, 4pm
Fiesta Mexicana 2015 will be held at the Hanford Civic Auditorium. Doors open at 4pm. Dinner plate and a drink included in the ticket price: $20 in July, $25 in August, $30 at the door.

August 15: Kentucky Derby Summer Jubilee, 7pm
The Tulare Hospital Foundation fundraiser is graciously hosted at the city estate of the Kumar & Gupta Families, 1028 N. Oaks Street in Tulare. Tickets are $50/Person.

August 21: 6th Annual Golf Skills Challenge, 7:30am
At Valley Oaks Golf Course. 7:30am Registration, 9:00am Tee-off. TOURNAMENT STYLE: There will be a 9-hole regular course AND a 9-hole skills challenge course. Prizes will be awarded to challenge winners throughout the day.

August 21: The School of Pop, Rock, and Blues performing at the Sequoia Mall, 5-7pm
Presented by Visalia Music School, this event is free for all ages.

August 21: Concert in Springville Park, 7-9pm
Mighty Oaks Chorus

August 22: 7th Annual Lemoore Lions Brewfest, 5-9pm
An evening of beer tasting, live music and good times for a good cause at Lemoore Lions Park. Tickets available for $35 by calling William Mayer at 559.707.0435 or Greg Martella at 559.707.7499

August 22 - October 17: Adult Co-ed Volleyball League
The league will feature an eight-week season from August 22- October 17, with a single-elimination tournament the last week on October 24. The games are played 6 on 6 with three women and three men on the court. All games will be played on Saturdays in the Santa Fe School Gym in Porterville. Participants must be 18 years or older. Cost to register is $150 per team. There is special discounted rate of $125 for teams that register before Friday, July 24. Teams can register at the Heritage Center, 256 E. Orange Ave., during regular business hours. For more information, call Parks and Leisure Services at (559) 791-7695.

August 27: Business Engagement Mixer
Do you work in Tulare County and have an interest in learning about the role that YOU can play in helping students prepare for college and careers? Join us on August 27th from 5:30-7pm for a Business Engagement mixer at the Tulare Chamber of Commerce Trade Room! You can register here: http://business.tularechamber.org/events/details/business-engagement-mixer-1630

August 28: Visalia Music School Presents Open Mic Night at the 210, 6-8pm
This event is free for all ages.

August 29: Shop for a Cause
Special shopping passes are $5 each, and every dollar stays with Habitat for Humanity of Tulare County. Passes are filled with exclusive Macy's discounts and a chance to win a $500 gift card. Call Habitat at 734-4040 to get your passes.

Sports

J.R. House Brings Catching Experience to Rawhide Helm

Stefan Barros

J.R. House is in his first year as manager of the Visalia Rawhide. Having been a former catcher in the Major Leagues, one might assume that managing at some level after playing would be inevitable.

In House's case, he knew that after his playing days were over, he would have to find a new career path and thought he would give coaching a try.

"After playing I started off as a hitting coach in the minors and then I decided to get into managing," he said.

Like many managers in professional baseball, House did catch in his playing days and it is an advantage over managers that played any other position, he said.

"I learned how to deal with a pitching staff and work with different personalities. Just making sure that things are ready to go. People who play other positions don't know how to deal with a pitching staff the same way a catcher can."

Being that House caught in the big leagues, one might wonder if that would affect the way the players listen to him and if they pay closer attention to what he had to say. House believes that it does help his relationship with players.

"Credibility is definitely key in this game. If my experience makes them hold attention that's great. I know they want to be where I have been," he said.

Throughout a baseball career that involved playing during five seasons at the Major League level, House does have moments for which he is particularly proud.

"Any day you get to play in the big leagues it's a big moment, but getting my first career hit at Wrigley Field, with my dad at the game, was a big moment," he said.

House got his first career big league hit at Wrigley Field in Chicago in 2003 as a member of the Pittsburgh Pirates.

"I actually had Tommy John Surgery (elbow) the season before in 2002, and I get called up the next year at the end of the season," he said. "I only had one major league at-bat in that '03 season and it was hit, and my dad was able to see it."

At the other end of the spectrum, House talked about parts of his career that he was disappointed in, or felt could have gone a little better.

"I wish I was able to do a better job avoiding injuries. I had five surgeries and it really derailed my playing career," he said.

Every manager at every level of baseball has their own point of emphasis when it comes to coaching or teaching their players. House has his own point of emphasis or motto as manager of the Rawhide.

"I just want these guys to play hard. All of these players, I have scouted and they all have their talents. I want to motivate them so that their natural gifts can come out on the field," he said.

With this being his first year, House also talked about what has surprised him while on the job and what he has found to be most difficult about the job.

"Being away from family is the toughest part. I have two kids, a six-year old girl, and three-year old boy. They live in Arizona and it's tough to be away all season," he said.

Going into this season, House really did not know what to expect. He didn't really know any of the players when spring training started, but as it went along, House started to realize what kind of team he had.

"Early in spring, I had no idea what we had, but as spring closed out, I knew we'd have a strong nucleus," he said. "The team chemistry was quickly built with this group and we've kept it going all season."

Going forward, House would love to continue manage through the professional ranks, but he wants to focus on right now.

"Being an MLB manager is always the dream," he said, "but I just want to be able to help these players reach their full potential."

Visalia Blue Makes Top Four in Pacific Southwest Region Tourney

Staff Reports

Cal Ripken League Visalia Blue 12U team held a 25-2 record this season along with winning four of five tournaments. They went on to win the Central California Champion title in Bakersfield the end of June, sending them to Sunrise, Arizona for the Pacific Southwest Regional Tournament in July.

On the way, the team made a stop at an Arizona Diamondback vs. Colorado Rockies game as guests of Diamondback infielder Aaron Hill, said team promoter, Frank Brown, whose grandson plays on the team.

Hill played Visalia Cal Ripken ball with Visalia Blue Coach Frank Durazo in the early 1990's, Brown said. The Visalia blue team got invited to the field where they met players on both major league teams prior to the game.

The team arrived in Sunrise, got checked in and attended a banquet on a "Field of Dreams," that the Kansas City Royals and Texas Rangers share for spring training.

Visalia Blue had a bye the first day of the tourney, but played back-to-back games on the second day.

In a painful first game, Visalia Blue lost, 4-21 to Hawaii Thunder. A humbling beat down, the Thunder hit several homeruns off Blue pitchers, Brown said.

"The boys had to suck it up, put the one-sided game behind them and play the Northern California Champs Elk Grove, 20 minutes later," he said. "Blue got out to a 6-1 lead, however Elk Grove fought back and eventually prevailed with a 7-5 win."

Visalia Blue won the next 2 games against the Nevada State Champs - Spanish Springs the next day, 13-1, and host team, Phoenix, Arizona, 15-0.

"The boys settled down and played sound baseball," said Brown.

This took them to the Regional Semi-Finals. Visalia Blue was one of four remaining teams out of 10.

In a 2-5 loss to the Yuma, Arizona team, Visalia Blue had to call it a season.

"We could of, should of, however didn't." Brown said. "We took the initiative behind the Number 2 seed playing Number 1, with a 1-0 lead in the top of the first. Tied it 2-2 and then struggled. However, missteps, bats that became cold, and an ace pitcher on the other squad led to the defeat."

"The Visalia Blue ended up 28-4 for the short summer season, which is a significant achievement." Brown said. "Great kids and great coaching along the way."

Bottom Row (L-R) Dakota Brown, Jacob Aurelio, Edgar Gonzalez, Robert Perez, Matt Ramirez, Jack Peters. Top Row (L-R) Colton Montgomery, Ethan Garcia, Riley Creech, Angel Valdez, Aaron Hill, Mitchell Wilson, Sam Felsted, Luke Jewett, Austin Beno

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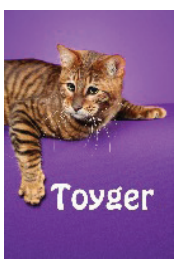

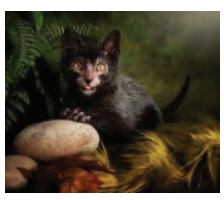

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Health

Positive West Nile Virus Samples High in Visalia

Tammie Weyker

Tulare County Health & Human Services and Delta Vector Control District are asking Visalia residents to be vigilant against mosquito bites as positive mosquito samples are extremely high.

"West Nile Virus (WNV) was detected in mosquito samples as early as April 23 and continues to amplify with intensity," said biologist Yolanda Lourenco, Delta Vector Control District. "To date (as of the end of June), 71 mosquito samples and 5 dead birds collected from the City of Visalia have tested positive for the virus. Typically, we do not see numbers this high until well into the month of July."

Generally, peak virus amplification are in the months of July and August, which would indicate that potential for the spread of virus will continue to increase.

It is imperative that residents take necessary precautions to prevent being bitten by mosquitoes and report any incidence of mosquito presence.

Additionally, residents are urged to increase their awareness of any potential breeding grounds around their property.

Any container with as little as a few inches of standing water, for more than three days, is a potential mosquito breeding source.

General areas affected by the virus are viewable on the Delta Vector Control District homepage, www.deltacd.com by clicking on the tab, "Mosquitoes WNV Positive."

To reduce the risk of being bitten by mosquitoes, Tulare County residents are strongly urged to:

- Report mosquito presence (anonymously if you like) by calling the Delta Vector Control District toll-free at 1-877-732-8606 or online at www.DeltaVCD.com
- Apply insect repellents, especially in the early morning and evening, that contain DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR3535 according to label instructions
- Wear long sleeved shirts and pants if out in the early morning and evening
- Make sure that doors and windows have tight-fitting screens to keep out mosquitoes. Repair or replace screens that have holes
- Eliminate standing water and containers that can hold water from around the home.

Get FREE mosquito fish for backyard ponds or water features by calling 877-732-8606 or online at www.DeltaVCD.com.

Lifestyle Center Set to Unveil New Workout Area, Daycare Center July 25

Staff Reports

The Lifestyle Center will host a regrand opening on Saturday, July 25, unveiling a new workout area and expanded day care center.

The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at The Lifestyle Center, 5105 W. Cypress Ave. Those who attend can join The Lifestyle Center to receive the lowest enrollment offer of the year*, take tours, enter to win prizes and opportunity drawings and more.

The new dynamic strength and functional fitness area includes:

- Olympic weights
- Astro turf
- Assault bikes
- Power sleds
- Jacob's ladder

The Lifestyle Center is also expanding its childcare center to 1,500 square feet. The area will feature age-appropriate activity areas and, in the future, will allow parents the ability to drop off their child without an appointment.

*Exclusive enrollment offer valid from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 25 on electronic fund transfer or 12-month prepaid memberships. Certain restrictions may apply. Offer not valid with any other offers or discounts. See membership representative for details.

The Lifestyle Center, a division of Kaweah Delta Health Care District, is a medically-based fitness and rehabilitation facility staffed with certified professionals. TLC is open from 4:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. on weekdays and 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekends at 5105 W. Cypress Ave. in Visalia. Information: 624-3400 or visit TheLifestyleCenter.org. Follow The Lifestyle Center on Twitter and Facebook.

Hand Analysis Workshop July 24 in Hanford

When decoded by an expert, your fingerprints reveal the sacred life path you are being called to explore, develop and illuminate. I've seen many people flounder and struggle, wondering, "Why am I here? What would help me feel better about my life? What can I do to make a more meaningful contribution?"

The reason these questions come up is because people experience doubt, confusion and some times despair.

These sensations undermine our reason for being and dim our Inner Light.

The good news is, once a person has a strategy for living purposefully, on the path they were designed to live, he or she can live more confidently and joyfully, knowing how to master this thing called life.

My expertise is to inspire exploration, deep-fulfillment and prosperity through the use of scientific hand analysis. On July 24 I will be leading curious and courageous participants to accelerate from student to master path in 3-easy steps during a 2-hour workshop at the Cosmic Corral in Hanford. Everyone will take home a checklist and tools to become aware of obstacles and how to make immediate course corrections. With a new compass in hand, everyone will discover fresh perspective, possibilities and prosperity. Come learn about the four different life paths (Service, Love, Peace and Wisdom) and which one you're on based on your fingerprint code so that you can advance on your pathway with greater clarity and purpose.

Kay Packard, M.A. is a Master Hand Analyst and Director of the American Academy of Hand Analysis. She is the author of Your Life Is In Your Hands: Practical Palm Reading for Purposeful Living. She grew up in Three Rivers and now lives in Pismo Beach, CA.

Broads

Continued from p. 17

The cast and director are working very hard to make the show a success

Ronnette Torrance' feelings are typical, "I work at home as well as at the theatre. People pay to see us, and I take that seriously."

"Love for Sale" from *The New Yorkers* is one of Torrance' favorites.

"I am able to make my voice sound like a horn. That's what you do when you sing jazz. You make your voice sound like an instrument."

In discussing the variety of *Broads of Broadway,* Ila Benedict explained, "We are doing songs that you haven't heard as well as big numbers. It's not all the songs you expect, but they are sweet, sad, funny and sexy."

One of Benedict's favorite numbers is "You're The Top" from *Anything Goes*, which she performs with Alberstein.

Two narrators, Odran Gilheany and Brett Clevenger, provide historical perspective and humor.

Gilheany elaborated, "You learn who refused parts and who became famous for accepting them. It is fun to know what really happened."

Broads of Broadway runs for three weekends at the Ice House Theater at Race and Santa Fe in Visalia. Evening performances are at 7:30 pm on Fridays and Saturdays, July 31, and August 1, 7, 8, 14, and 15 and matinees are at 2 pm on Sundays, August 2, 9, and 16.

To purchase tickets go to the Visalia Players' website at www.visaliaplayers.org, their Facebook page "Visalia Community Players", or call 734-3900.

Cat Show Benefits Cat House on the Kings

TICA™ Allbreed Championship Cat & Household Pet Show is presented by Kat Knappers Cat Club in association with The International Cat Fanciers Association {TICA) and sponsored by Dr. Elsey's Precious Cat & Royal Canin pet foods. The 2015 SW Regional Awards Cat Show will be held, Saturday and Sunday, August 1 and 2 at the Holiday Inn in Visalia.

The International Cat Association™ (TICA™) is the world's largest genetic registry of pedigreed cats and household pet cats and kittens, with 63 breeds of cats in competition each day for the coveted Best in Show.

Attendees are able to meet the breeders, exhibitors and groomers, as well as visit with a large array of vendors. Everyone's favorite breeds will be attendance: Bengals, Chausie, Lykoi and many more. The show is held at the Valley Oak Ballroom of the Holiday Inn & Conference Center. The show is open to the public from 10 am – 4 pm both days.

Bring a can of cat food to help the Cat House on the Kings, a no-kill, non-profit local shelter which will be present and competing.

For more information visit, http://www.ctc.volant.org/cats/kkcc/?c=0815.

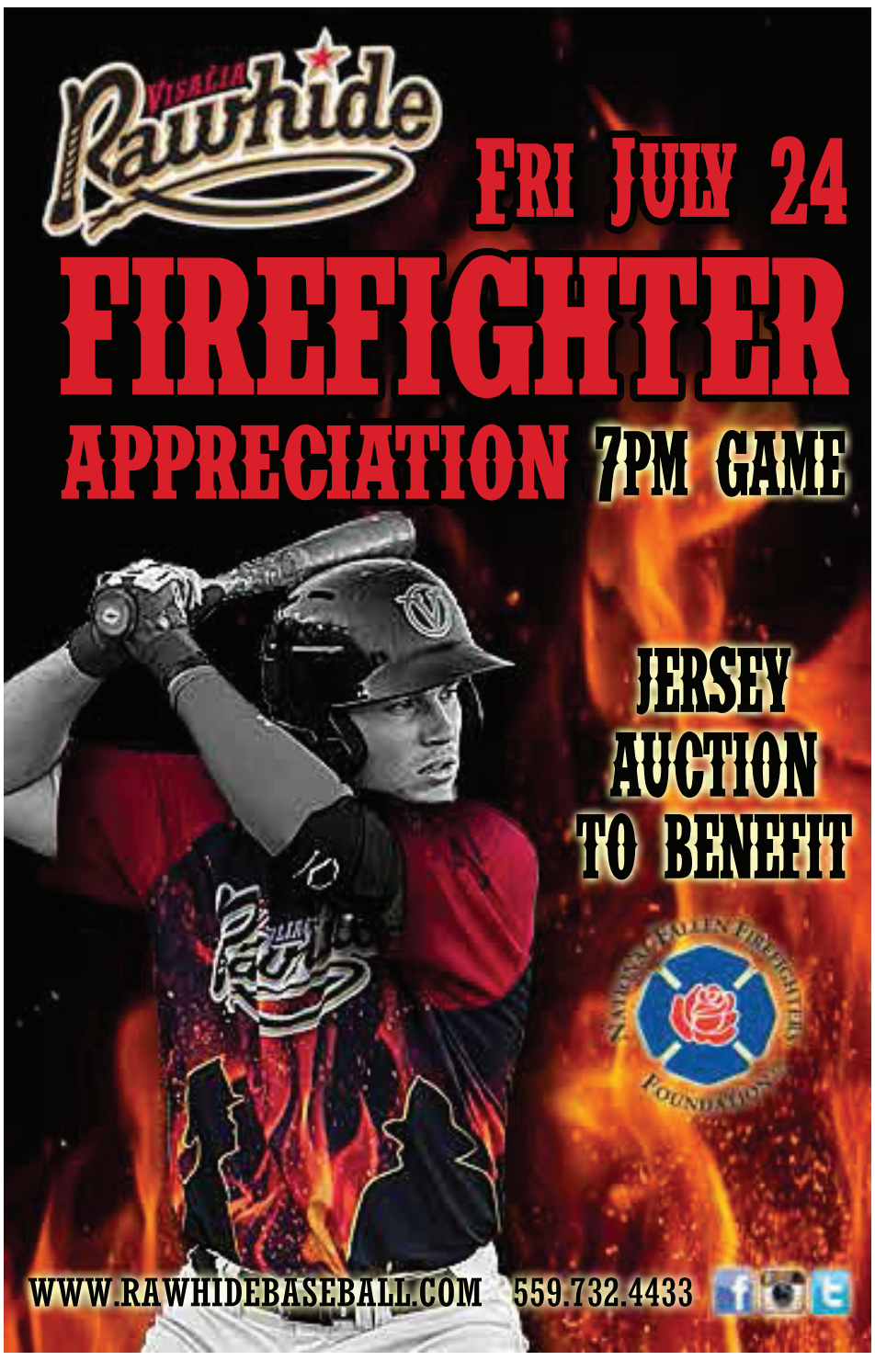
From the Fire: Aug. 1-Sept. 20

From the Fire presents an exhibition of work by members of the San Joaquin Clay and Glass Association at the Marcellus Gallery in the Kings Art Center with opening reception on Friday, July 31 from 5:30-7:30pm. The exhibition runs from Saturday, Aug. 1-Wednesday, Sept. 20.

Cory Ballis: Blown Glass

The San Joaquin Clay and Glass Association was founded in 1981 by a small number of Valley artists.

Besides formal demonstrations and association meetings, members exhibit work at a variety of public and private studios, galleries and art events throughout the state. From Dianne Beauregard's fused dichroic glass Jewelry to the functional ceramics of Rita Watkins with their layers of under-glaze creating a look of watercolor surfaces, and the hand-blown glass work of Cory Ballis, the work exhibited reflects an impressive creative and technical mastery of clay and glass by this diverse group of regional artists.

Exhibiting artists include Lisa Anderson, Cory Ballis, Marty Bobrowski, Diane Bouregard, Vicki Cederquist, Karen Carlson, Annie Compton-Schmidt, Ken Foster, Linda Johnson, Richard Markle, Randy Olsen, Richard Rosas, Martin Shapiro, Helene Vanderschelden, Stephen Veach and Ray West .

Regular gallery hours are Wednesday through Friday from 11am-4pm and Saturday through Sunday 12-3pm. Admission is free and tours are offered by appointment. The Kings Art Center is located at 605 N. Douty St. For more information, call (559) 584-1065.